THE

PALL MALL GAZETTE

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OUR COMMISSIONER AND THE MIKADO.

After a long and unaccountable delay, we have at last received satisfactory intelligence as to the progress of our Travelling Commissioner, who has now been absent for nearly twelve months. His letters from the capital of Japan, dated August 1, arrived yesterday, with full descriptions and numerous photographs of the volcanic explosion which has probably been the greatest seismic catastrophe that has occurred in this planet during the present century. We shall publish the first instalment of these letters, with illustrations, to-morrow, from which our readers will perceive that instead of being swallowed up by the great convulsion of nature, as some of us had almost begun to fear, our Commissioner was very much on the spot, and had unequalled opportunities for witnessing an unprecedented phenomenon. It is not every day that a mountain is blown up, even in Japan, and when it happens newspaper reporters are usually far away. The explosion which hurled Sho-Bandai-san into the air and submerged thirty square miles of territory under its shattered débris was an event which, if it had been announced beforehand, would have attracted the "specials" of all the great newspapers of Europe and America. As it is, the terrific scene of desolation following the explosion has been witnessed by no other representatives of the Western press than the correspondents of the *Pall Mall Gazette* and of the *Times*, and, as the former alone was adequately equipped with photographic apparatus, we are therefore in the proud position of being the only newspaper in the world which is able to describe and illustrate one of the most terrible and appalling natural phenomena that have occurred within the memory of living men. The mountain peak that was blown up was 5,800 feet high. Scawfell is only 3,208 feet high, Snowdon only 3,571. Yet in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, this mighty mass was blown to fragments and all life obliterated from a territory covering half the area of London. It was well worth going all the way to Japan to describe so awful a catastrophe, and we are glad that our Commissioner was on the spot.

But that is not the only success which our Commissioner is able to report. From the *Japan Daily Mail* we learn that he has achieved the unique distinction of being personally welcomed to the Land of the Rising Sun by its Sovereign, the Mikado of Japan. The ambassadors of the press are getting on, and we can congratulate ourselves upon having contributed not a little to this journalistic advance. This is the second Potentate of Imperial dignity who has this year, for the first time in history, received a representative of British journalism, and in both cases the journalist was on the staff of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. We heartily congratulate our Commissioner upon his reception by the Mikado of Japan. The ceremony took place at the close of a review of the Japanese troops, and the meeting is one of those little incidents which illustrate more forcibly than volumes of dissertation the progress of civilization in Japan. But the other day the Mikado was a mysterious, semi-divine Invisible, as unapproachable as the Grand Lama of Tibet. To-day he graciously welcomes to his dominions a representative of the *Pall Mall Gazette*. The Mikado and our Commissioner are each in his own way the most distinctive products of the civilization of the East and the West. It was not unappropriate that the representative of that which Mr. Matthew Arnold described as "the New Journalism" should be the first unofficial Englishman admitted to an audience with the Mikado of Japan.

Our Commissioner reports that wherever he has wandered—and he has now gone half across the world—he found the name of the *Pall Mall Gazette* an open sesame to unlock all doors and secure alike from the highest and the lowest a hearty welcome wherever civilization had spread. He has been taken round by the Japanese Government to see everything that is worth seeing in Japanese institutions, and his letters will embody the latest and most authentic information concerning the most progressive community in the Farther East. Our Commissioner will, we hope, ere this have left for Vladivostock, where he is assured beforehand of a hospitable welcome in the Pacific outpost of the Empire of the Great White Tzar. From thence he will proceed to Corea, where he will make his way into the capital of the Hermit Kingdom. After Corea, our Commissioner will make his way southward, visiting Pekin, and from there coasting downwards to Hong Kong and through the straits of Malacca to Burmah. But we are not sure whether after all he may not alter his route and proceed to India *viâ* Tibet. That will depend upon the nature of his reception at the Imperial Court of China. We admit that such a tour seems to be beyond the bounds of the possible. Still, since our Commissioner has been received by the Mikado, what is there left for him to do but to interview the Grand Lama of Tibet?

THE FRENCH NAVY AND ITS DOCKYARDS.

A Survey of the Administration of the Marine.

The cynic has remarked that there is always something consoling in the misfortunes of our neighbours. One does not need to be a cynic to feel that this is certainly true when a neighbour happens to be also a rival and a possible foe. Our relations with France at present are as good as good can be, and that they may long continue so is the earnest wish of every civilized human being. But at the same time it is impossible to ignore the fact that we may, sooner or later, find ourselves at cross-purposes with France, and should such a dire calamity befall the human race, the issue will be largely fought out by the navies of the two countries. It is therefore impossible, in considering the condition of our navy, to forget for a moment that the first comparison must always be made between the navies of France and England. We published the other day an alarming survey of the condition of the English navy, on the authority of Lord Charles Beresford, an ex-Lord of the Admiralty, and one of the best known officers in the service. To-day we have to supplement that description of the parlous plight of our first line of defence by an equally gloomy analysis of the administration and expenditure of the French fleet. The parallel is, however, not complete, inasmuch as the French writer, whose articles we summarize below, does not enter into the question of the fighting strength of the navies of the two countries. What he does, is to examine the administration of the navy and of the dockyards in France, and show, in a series of powerful articles, that the condition of affairs is as bad and even worse than in our own country. Without further preface we introduce the summary of M. Bourde's articles:—

From the point of view of the taxpayer and in consideration of the fact which he alleges that the French are more highly taxed than any other people, M. Paul Bourde has undertaken an inquiry into the condition and methods of working of the French public services. The three questions he proposed to himself to answer in each case are:—1. What work has the service in question to do, and how many people does it employ for the purpose? 2. Could the organization of the service in question be recast upon a more methodical plan, and be rendered more economical by being made more simple? 3. Could not some of the work done by this service be more advantageously entrusted to local initiative or to private enterprise? We give underneath a précis of the result, so far as it has gone with regard to the navy, condensed from the papers which have appeared in the *Temps*.

The French Navy a World in Itself.

He describes it first as an organization complete in itself and jealous of its powers, constructing not only its own ships but every article which forms part of their construction, armament, outfitting, and stores. "It sews its own sails, forges its anchors, casts its pots and its boilers, manufactures its rigging, cushions the sofas of its officers' saloons, grinds its flour, cooks its bread and biscuits, salts its own bacon, tins its own beef, makes the tins, and will trust nobody but itself with the care of transforming its cabbage into sourkrout, and its sour wine into vinegar. It has its own workmen, police, tribunals, and hospitals. The only special pension list in the Budget is the naval list. It has besides its technical schools, its own primary schools and schools of medicine. It has also of course its own charitable institutions. It has its own naturally determined recruiting ground. Its officers are taken almost always from the same families. It has even a language of its own, of which the technicalities fill big dictionaries." M. Bourde attributes to it in an eminent degree the qualities and the defects of a special service. He speaks in high terms of the generally good tone of the officers and men, and concludes that, taking drawbacks and advantages together, the navy presents

the paradox of a personnel above the average in merit, working in an organization which is at once antiquated and bad.

AS BAD AS OUR ADMIRALTY.

The last occasion upon which this organization was recast was in 1844. In 1878 a Commission of Inquiry was nominated, and it began its work assisted by the famous report of M. Lamy upon the Naval Budget of 1879. This report was the outcome of seven years' hard work by a very competent man, and it has remained the classical document of reference on naval matters ever since. Naval Budgets drawn up as M. Lamy described them, "not in order to give information to the public, but in order to give liberty to the Administration," were models of disorder. Those parts of the service which should have been grouped together were subdivided, and those which should have been treated separately were grouped together. Personnel and material were mixed up. The whole was in the wildest confusion; and the yearly accounts, which might have thrown light upon the subject, were no better. In the first place, they were always three years behind their time, coming too late to affect the new Budget in any way, and then they were presented always in the form of big totals, from which it was impossible to draw the materials for instituting any practical comparison between the cost of a department and the work it had performed or to ascertain the price of a single object from a nail to an ironclad. The natural effect of this disorder was, of course, that expenses were out of all proportion to the results obtained.

"In the same year France had at sea eighty-nine ships, with a total tonnage of 170,000, and England had 130 ships, with a total tonnage of 255,000 tons. Our fleet was, therefore, equal to only two-thirds of the English fleet. But in every detail given in the accounts the expenses of the weaker fleet had exceeded the expenses of the stronger. In material alone the French fleet had cost 8,560,00 f., while the English fleet had only cost 3,200,000."

THE NON-COMBATANT NAVY.

In fact, there was the same difference when the French fleet was compared with the English. The change from wooden sailing vessels to ironclad steamers brought about great changes in constructional requirements. England and the United States reduced the numbers of their dockyards. Italy and Germany concentrated all their efforts upon one or two harbours, and France should, of course, have done the same, but "while shipbuilding interests demanded concentration, the interest of the personnel demanded dispersion. The more harbours there were in full work the more offices there were to fill. The original idea of the navy was good It wanted to keep its war cadres at full strength in order that it might never be taken by surprise. But the means that it employed gave rise to absurdities. It created offices in order to provide for a superabundant personnel and in order to justify its own existence. The personnel created work. Departments already overloaded by the multiplicity of the duties ascribed to them became complicated to an incredible degree. Entirely unnecessary occupations became so absorbing that in order to maintain the elasticity of the cadres it was necessary to add to them perpetually." In consequence, France, with a fleet, it must be remembered, one-third less than the English fleet, required 2,466 officials to do the work which in England was accomplished by 1,256. The same disproportion continued in the minor services. France employed 1,930 men to fulfil the duties of dockyard police and firemen—England employed 309 for the same purpose. France required 24,000 dockyard workmen, England only 16,000. The fighting navy had been overwhelmed by the non-combatant. We kept 3,800 men on shore for 3,900 at sea, and 3,000 officials for 1,800 officers. Naturally the money devoured by this parasitic growth could not be employed in constructing ships. From a proportion of 63 per cent. which it reached in 1820, the share of the yearly credit set aside for constructive purposes had fallen to 43 per cent. The material on land was allowed to grow out of all proportion to the material at sea.

"While in England the value of material on land (buildings, machinery, stores, &c.) amounted to 400,000,000 f., and the fleet, the instrument of war, was worth 800,000,000 f., in France the figures had to be reversed. While we had 420,000,000 f. worth of buildings, 270,000,000 f. of stores, 154,000,000 f. of machinery—that is to say, more than 800,000,000 f. worth of material on shore—our fleet was not worth 400,000,000 f."

SHIPS TOO LONG ON THE STOCKS.

The evil of maintaining five dockyards to do the work of three was not confined to questions of expense. The work divided between so many centres was too slowly done. The ironclad which took three years and a half to make in England remained for eight and ten years upon the stocks in France, with the result that it was out of date long before it was finished, and the attempts made to modify it in the construction added enormously to the expense without making it really equal to the more modern ship.

This is a summary of the report published by M. Lamy nine years ago. M. Paul Bourde undertakes to show that though certain reforms, especially in the matter of accounts and estimates, have been effected, the state of things remains practically in the most essential points the same to the present day. Our navy, he says, continues to construct slowly, it constructs still expensively, the reductions in the accessory personnel have been insignificant, and the total cost continues to be overwhelming. With regard to slowness of construction, the last Budget shows that on January 1, 1888, five first-class ironclads were on the stocks in our dockyards. *Admiral Baudin* and the *Formidable* since December 13, 1878; the *Hoche* since August 3, 1880; and the *Magenta* and *Neptune* since October 7, 1880. Foreign navies construct their largest ships in four years; in nine our navy cannot finish ours. Not only it does not finish them, but in order that it may not have to blush for its delay it imposes the same delay on the trade which constructs for it. When the *Magenta* was put upon the stocks at Toulon another ironclad, the *Marceau*, was set up on the other side of the harbour on the private stocks of the Seyne. A Spanish ironclad of equal importance, the *Pelayo*, has just been finished in three years and three months by that factory. Nothing prevented the French navy from imposing similar conditions, but if a French ironclad had been delivered in three years by the Seyne what justification would there have been for the fact that a few kilometres off at Toulon another French ironclad should have taken ten years to construct. The agreements with regard to the *Marceau* were drawn up in such a way as to prevent it from advancing any faster than the *Magenta*. Like the *Magenta*, eight years after being put upon the stocks it is still where it was."

M. Bourde points out all that the French ships lose in efficiency by this extreme slowness of construction, and the ships that have been named serve to illustrate his point. The *Marceau*, still unfinished, is constructed upon plans of 1880, and when finished will be deficient in speed, while the *Pelayo*, ready to go to sea, was built upon plans made five years later, with all the benefit of the progress in naval science made during those five years, and is one of the finest ironclads afloat. Worse, however, than having inferior ships would be the condition of having no ships at all; and this, so far as new ironclads are concerned, might have been the condition of the French navy if war had broken out any time since 1880. On the 1st of June, 1888, the French Government had spent 80 millions of francs upon the six ironclads which were in course of construction, and not one of them was ready. If the French dockyards were like those of other nations—fewer in number and better manned—three or perhaps four of the ironclads might have been finished and might have served to turn the scale in war. As it is, if war were to break out to-day, the eighty millions expended up to date would be absolutely useless.

THE FOUR INDUSTRIES OF THE NAVY.

M. Bourde goes on to show that naval construction involves four separate industries—building in wood, building in iron, armament, and repairs. These four industries are carried on by the French navy simultaneously in the five military dockyards, which are Cherbourg, Brest, Lorient, Rochefort, and Toulon. These five dockyards were made in the seventeenth century, since when the conditions of shipbuilding have considerably changed. The longer a wooden ship remained on the stocks the better for the seasoning of the wood. Fifteen and sixteen years were taken to build a ship, and as many as fifty or sixty were sometimes begun at once. A great many dockyards were needed, and there was no reason why the construction of a new ship should not be interrupted for the purposes of repairing an old one. Now, on the contrary, speed is essential in the building of ships. All other chances being equal, victory in action will remain with the vessel which takes into battle the latest scientific improvements, and these will necessarily belong to the ship which is most rapidly constructed.

THE FRENCH DOCKYARDS.

M. Bourde then enters more particularly into the question of the five dockyards. He points out the enormous cost incurred by maintaining in each of them the whole plant and establishment necessary for carrying on the four different industries involved by the requirements of a modern navy. "Each dockyard has a prefet maritime at its head, and under him a general staff, a naval staff, a general commissariat, a director of naval construction and his subordinates, a director of hydraulic works, a director of artillery, a director of torpedoes, a sanitary service, &c." The same number of officials is maintained for each dockyard, but natural causes make it impossible for the dockyards to turn out the same amount of work. At Rochefort, where there is machinery enough for double the average amount of work done, the Charente is not deep enough to allow big ships to pass up and down except for twelve days in the year. A whole line of armour-plating had to be taken off one of the first ironclads which was made there, in order to enable it to get down the river. The establishments necessary for armament and repairs exist, but ships cannot get in to be repaired. At Lorient, where there is exactly the same establishment and the same cost of maintenance, the harbour is too small, and the work done is restricted in proportion. The result is as might be expected. When with infinite difficulty an estimate of expenses was arrived at, it was found that for 100 f. worth of work done the Government was obliged to spend 329 f.—that is to say, the excess of the working expenses over the value delivered was 229 per cent.

DOCKYARD REFORM.

M. Bourde is an advocate of what he calls the specialization of dockyards. He would concentrate the work of repair and armaments at Toulon, Cherbourg, and Brest, keep Lorient entirely for constructive purposes, and either close Rochefort altogether or employ it exclusively for building wooden ships. The minimum economy which he promises as the result of such a redistribution would be upwards of two and a half millions of francs, and at the same time the rate of construction would, he contends, be advanced from ten years to three and a half.

It will be seen that M. Bourde is little by little answering the questions that he set himself at the beginning of his inquiry. There is no merchant's office, he says, into which if you go and ask, "How many employés have you, and how much work do they get through in the year?" the question cannot at once be answered by two sets of figures. It is reserved for Government officers alone to be able to tell you how many people they employ and to be totally ignorant of the amount of work done. If the figures he has quoted are correct there can be no doubt that the result of his inquiry is to show that in the navy the disproportion between the two is enormous, and presses most unduly both upon the pockets of the taxpayer and the efficiency of the service. There is no need to point out how sweeping a reform would be required in French offices generally if his views were to be adopted. With regard to the second object of his inquiry, whether the organization of the service could not be recast upon a more methodical plan, the result that he has arrived at is equally clear. The third point, concerning the relative amount to be done by the State and private enterprise, he reserves for discussion in future articles, which the *Temps* has undertaken to publish weekly.

UGLY LONDON.

BLAME THE BUILDING ACTS.

AMONG Mr. William Morris's suggestive remarks, called forth by Ouida's article on the ugliness of London, was a reference to the Metropolitan Building Act, and the necessity of very considerable modifications of it, if street architecture in London is ever again to come amongst us as a universal and fine art. This reference alone, to any for whom the word architecture is something more than a dignified name for the building trade, points to the source of so much that is, without any real necessity, mean and hideous in our London streets, that it could not fail to be of value if others beside architects and professional men might be led to appreciate how all fine and original work becomes well-nigh impossible under the limitations of the Building Act.

By this Act an entire prohibition is laid upon the use of wood in the construction of external walls; thereby completely preventing the employment of the timber-framed buildings so common to the Middle Ages, or of any modifications of such modes of construction. How curious a curtailment of the resources of architecture is implied in this limitation, may be realized by any one who has stopped a moment on his way along Holborn to glance at the front of Staple Inn, now that it has been freed from its accumulations of plaster, although this is but a late example. Now that we have in London two such splendid examples of the lamentable results of mere imitation of "Gothic" in the new Law Courts, and of "Classic" in the Colonial Offices, we must surely begin to see that if we are to have any architecture of our own at all worthy or distinguished we must have recourse to some more eclectic and catholic manner of determining its principles than has hitherto been customary. It is, therefore, pre-eminently necessary that all legitimate modes of construction shall be open to whoever shall be able to sufficiently disentangle himself from the present social conditions, to gain the pure air of the art of to-morrow; if, indeed, such a thing is possible. The reason why wood has been forbidden in the construction of external walls is because it is "a combustible material;" but the ingenuity of the commercial spirit has long devised buildings of stone, iron, and match boarding, satisfying in every way the conditions of the Building Act, which in a great fire entirely collapse before a good oak beam could be half burned through. It would, of course, be necessary to stringently regulate the use of wood in buildings; and there ought to be no real difficulty here if there was at all a general sense abroad of artistic conditions; but, unfortunately, there is not. The London architect being thus restricted to the use of "brick, stone, or other hard and incombustible materials," is not even free to deal with these materials according to the terms of his art. To give two instances: "In any street or alley," says the Act," of a width greater than 30 ft. . . . the cornice may project for 18 inches from the external walls, but no more." Again, all window frames must be set back at least 4 inches from the face of external walls. How great a hindrance to all bold and vigorous treatment is the first of these regulations; how impossible to obtain any very broad or delicate effects if the second is to be fulfilled. But it is not only the Building Act which is at fault. The exorbitant prices we pay for land in London forces us, if we wish to get any adequate percentage on our outlay—and how many of us are sufficiently fine Pagans, or even Christians, to forego interest on our capital?—to build not a single house, but a whole collection of houses, one on the top of the other. But after all, these architectural abortions, where any attempt at rhythmical proportion is entirely impossible, are only the visible outcome of our present social conditions.

Again, is not the monotonous straightness of London streets largely to be attributed to this last cause? All that the ordinary middle-class man demands of them is that they shall lead him to whatever place his business appointment may require him to be at by the shortest way. How irritated we all get at the steps of St. Martin's Church jutting out into the roadway! It is not so certain that they form any considerable obstacle to the traffic at that corner of Trafalgar-square; but they do obviously give a sense of obstruction. That is sufficient; and middle-class minds rage furiously together. Then the church of St. Mary-le-Strand is a work of great beauty; while the houses on either side have no particular architectural merit. It would be quite possible to make an adequate roadway for the traffic here by pulling down these houses; but again there would be left, in the church, this same sense of obstruction, and so the same people would have this building pulled down also. "Come," they say, "let us make the shortest way into the City." Yet in this church is contained whatever architectural beauty remains to the Strand. Until we can learn to appreciate other street effects than those which are obtained by unbroken lines—until we are able to see wherein the charm of a mediæval city largely lay, and adapt mediæval principles to our own uses, we shall never be able to give variety to so great a city as London. If the picturesqueness of Middle-row, in Holborn, could have been preserved without its inconveniences, how considerable a charm would that thoroughfare have retained.

HERBERT P. HORNE.

President Carnot and M. Floquet, the French Prime Minister, arrived at Evreux yesterday. The Mayor of Evreux, in presenting the members of the Municipal Council to M. Carnot, expressed the hope that the presence of the President among the people of Normandy would induce waverers and dissentients to rally round the Republican standard.

HELIGOLAND.*

HELIGOLAND, though it is nominally a British colony, would perhaps be more correctly described as a naval station—one of the many island fortresses of our ocean-empire—for it has no colonists, and indeed hardly any British residents. Lying almost in the estuary of the Elbe, yet its inhabitants are no more of Teutonic than of Saxon origin: the Heligolanders are Frisians, the relics of a disappearing race, but one tenacious, nevertheless, of its individuality. And it is a curious coincidence that the Frisian islands, like their simple sons, are fast disappearing. The solid rocks of Heligoland will probably endure while time lasts, but the sandy dunes of the island-chain which skirts the Schleswig coast, and which were the original home of this sea-born race, are rapidly diminishing before the encroachments of the sea. The Heligolanders are loyal and contented subjects of the British Crown; so far as they evince any preference towards their more powerful neighbours, their sentiments incline towards existing conditions. The heavy burdens and compulsory military service of Germany they regard with abhorrence, while the British supremacy on the seas naturally appeals to the admiration of the nautical predilections of a seafaring people. So long as this latter condition is maintained intact, we can hardly agree with the author of the pleasant little book before us as to the necessity of developing the natural strength or erecting extensive fortifications upon Heligoland.

Though it is the nearest (as it is also the smallest) of our colonies, yet Heligoland is probably less known than many far more distant—it is, in fact, abandoned to German bathers; hence Mr. Black's charmingly descriptive chapters are doubly welcome. The little island measures but three-quarters of a mile, and its shores are everywhere precipitous, save at the one point where the town is situate. Neither roads, telegraphs, nor railways exist—not even horses and carts mar the primitive simplicity of isolation which characterizes a people steeped in old-world customs and quaint observances. Amidst a wealth of folk-lore, and strange superstitious legends which still people the cavernous cliffs with elves and mermaids, ghosts and sea-gods, one feels in Heligoland that we have gone back several centuries. As a refuge from the cares of our high-pressure life, abounding, too, in romantic associations, Heligoland is unique.

To the naturalist the island is well known as a half-way house for the vast hosts of migrating birds which every spring and autumn pass and repass on their journey from northern to southern climes: nearly all the varieties of the feathered race known in Europe have, at one time or another, been obtained here, and the collection of local rarities of Herr Gätke is one of the sights of the island. Mr. Black's little volume gives a capital description both of Heligoland and of the neighbouring Frisian islands in all their various aspects, political, social, and legendary, and we can cordially recommend it to our readers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HARD ON THE ROAD CAR COMPANY.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In defence of the servants of the above company, fined for obstructing the highway, it was urged that even-handed justice was not dealt to the omnibus companies by the police. The sitting magistrate, upon the mere denial of the police inspector, refused to entertain this idea for a moment. If his worship will come into the City any afternoon between four and six o'clock he may find grounds to alter his opinion. Many times within the last month I have waited at the Mansion House end of Lombard-street for a 'bus, and have observed that those of the General Omnibus Company are allowed to remain at this place much longer than the passengers care to, while those of the Road Car Company are scarcely permitted to stop for a passenger to get in. So marked, indeed, is this distinction that, in reply to my request for the cause of it, the conductor said, "Ah, I ain't a Gineral!" I have no interest in any omnibus company, but simply write in the cause of

FAIR PLAY.

Lloyd's, Sept. 8.

"THE BRITISH ASS. AND ITS BEGGING LIST."

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—The letter by "Poor Science," which appeared in your issue of the 1st inst., was forwarded to me abroad, and it is only to-day that I have had the opportunity of reading it. In it the writer makes various misstatements regarding myself; but it is not to correct these that I write. As to why my name appears on the list of "distinguished visitors unprovided for" perhaps requires explanation. As a vice-president of one of the sections, the local committee naturally expected my presence at Bath, but circumstances arose since my selection for that office which have prevented my attending the meeting. Unlike "Poor Science" who appeals to you to aid him in getting "free board and lodging" at Bath, I do not ask for hospitality to be extended to me at these times, and never have done. As a matter of fact, however, this year I declined, some weeks ago, a most courteous invitation from a gentleman to whom, I believe, I am a perfect stranger; and am sorry I could not avail myself of it. If the generous and unselfish spirit which rules in your correspondent's letter were general among the members of the British Association, it would be surprising if the list of "distinguished visitors unprovided for" were not of considerably greater length than that which he gives.—

Yours faithfully,

W. DE W. ABNEY.

September 8.

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* "Heligoland and the Islands of the North Sea." By Wm. Geo. Black. (W. Blackwood and Sons, London and Edinburgh. 1888.)

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The morning papers to-day are full of disturbing items. Ishak Khan, who was reported recently as flying from before the victorious troops of the Ameer of Afghanistan, is now said to be marching on Cabul, where the Ameer is lying ill. In Morocco the Emperor is fighting for his life in the midst of a fierce insurrection, beneath which he may at any moment disappear. And most serious of all is the news from Servia. It is now evident, even to observers in Vienna, that the Servians fiercely resist the abominable conduct of their caitiff King. If Milan does not mind what he is about, he may be sent packing, and all the promises of his Austrian patrons will not restore him to the throne.

If Milan should lose his throne as the penalty for his unbridled debaucheries, he will furnish M. de Grandlieu with another apposite illustration of the political mischief that comes from ill-regulated passions. But far more serious than the fate of Milan is the possibility that his deposition may lead to war between Austria and Russia. Russia will not tolerate the invasion of Servia by Austria. If an Austrian army corps is landed at Belgrade, the Russian Cossacks will enter Galicia; nor will the German ægis be extended to shield Austria from harm in what will be a war of aggression ordered from Vienna. For Austria has no right to invade Servia; and if she should do so, she will precipitate her own doom. It will be odd if the net result of Milan's amours should be the establishment of a Russian Queen on the throne of Servia as a set-off to the Hungarian lieutenant who occupies the throne of Bulgaria.

It is an immense comfort to know that the northern frontier line of Afghanistan had been accurately delimited before this civil war broke out between Ishak and Abdurrahman. The Russians are not likely to interfere, and we shall do well to preserve a similar prudent attitude. If the news of Ishak's advance on Cabul be well founded, the contemplated visit of the British mission will have to be postponed. It would never do for a successful rebel to capture all the Ameer's Anglo-Indian guests as part of the loot of the capital. The news of Ishak's advance comes from Persia; in India nothing seems to have been heard either of the Ameer's illness or of the threatened attack on Cabul.

The police cut a very sorry figure at the Whitechapel inquest yesterday. They are still, it would seem, as far off as ever from discovering the murderer or murderers. But that is nothing. One has long since ceased to expect them to hunt down more than one murderer in two. But what was curious in yesterday's evidence was the neglect of the police to follow up any clue, however obvious. Two men came to look at the murdered woman's body. They might be able to give valuable information. But the police have not found them. The murdered woman had lived for some time, off and on, with a pensioner. He, too, obviously might be able to throw some light on the mystery. But he, too, is not known to the police. The coroner "expressed his surprise" at all this. The public will not be surprised at his doing so.

Whatever indiscretion there may have been in the form of Michael Davitt's remonstrance concerning the apathy of English Liberals in face of evictions, it is not comparable for a moment with the execrably bad taste and worse policy of the *Daily News*' comments on his complaint. "Michael Davitt" asks, in effect, the only Liberal morning newspaper in London; "and who is Michael Davitt that he should make such a complaint?" "Mr. Davitt is a notable and rather a dangerous firebrand," who "deeply resents the independence which is the inalienable birthright of English Liberalism." The Liberal party, it loftily assures him, "can subsist and even flourish without his august approval." Now, surely there must be some sensible man left somewhere, either among the proprietors or the editors—past, present, and to come—of the *Daily News* who can tell the foolish scribe who wrote this leader that this will not do. It is far more fatal to the party which the *Daily News* now misrepresents than the most violent speeches which contemplation of the miseries of the evicted wring from an honest, unselfish patriot like Michael Davitt.

There are several points of interest about the yearly report which Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff has issued of the irrigation works in Egypt. Mr. Wilfrid Blunt and other advocates of Egypt for the Egyptians will doubtless examine jealously the record of the working of the corvée relief decree. Some of the red-tape defects of the decree induce Sir Colin, with what the *Times* correspondent calls his "charming unofficial candour," to declare in short that it is "on a par with most of the others which internationalism has devised for the welfare of Egypt." Sir Colin is unable, though he is plainly willing, to say very much good as yet of the employment of natives in positions of responsibility. He may praise a man for working well in an old rut, but where discretion is wanted to take a new line he has to deplore the old fatal want of will, and weight, and initiative. Still it is encouraging to gather how much heart British officialism can put into the task of coaxing the native to "find salvation," and still more encouraging to learn that surely, if slowly, the fellah is finding it. He has begun to realise that he is not a chattel, but a labourer worthy of his hire. That is still a long way from being a citizen, but it is something towards being a man.

There has seldom been a more remarkable instance of the power of publicity than that afforded by the story of the gas scandal at Halifax, which is told in another column. The *dénouement* of the story may indeed appear somewhat tame, consisting as it does merely in the resignation of a municipal gas manager. The watchdogs of the press have often run down bigger game than that. But what makes the case remarkable is the slightness of the effort which was necessary to produce the required result. All that was done was to suggest in a City Note in the *Pall Mall Gazette* that if inquiry were held, grave scandals would be discovered. That suggestion was enough. The inquiry has not been held, but the gas manager has resigned. The fall of the walls of Jericho would be removed from the regions of the miraculous if Joshua's trumpet had been the voice of the press.

Sir Charles Wilson yesterday expressed an earnest hope that Sir Charles Warren might succeed Sir Hercules Robinson as High Commissioner in South Africa. That is impossible. The post of the High Commissioner is now merely an ornamental appendage to that of the Governor of Cape Colony, an official who is under the thumb of the Dutch majority of the Cape Parliament. Sir Charles Warren would be as much out of place at Cape Town as he is at Scotland-yard. He would be a first-class Warden of the Marches on the southern bank of the Zambesi, defending the land of Ophir against the Arab slave-traders on one hand and Dutch filibusters on the other. He might also do as Governor of Masailand. But at Cape Town he would be a bull in a china shop.

There is one striking phrase in President Cleveland's letter of acceptance of the Democratic candidature. Speaking of the immigration question he says:—

> The labourer can be better protected by additional and more direct legislation to restrict the immigration of the unintelligent labour which is crowding out American working men by working at *wages which ought not to satisfy those who make claim to American citizenship.*

In one of his earliest messages as President Mr. Cleveland set a notable standard of Republican simplicity. Therein he struck at the too much. He has now completed his ideal by striking at the too little. Taken together, his words enforce the virtue of that middle state between wealth and poverty which all the wisest men in all ages have declared to be the ideal of happiness in human fortune.

The rage for rapid transit through the air, either by tobogganing, switchbacks, or roller-coasters, led an ingenious person at Blackpool to devise a plan whereby a car suspended by a wire rope was rapidly sped through the air, "giving the sensation of ballooning without the danger." Unfortunately, the wire rope broke yesterday, and seven persons were flung headlong 30 ft. through the air without so much as a parachute to break their fall. The "aërial flight" will, therefore, not rival the switchback, which, we are informed, has not yet been the cause of a single serious accident. The death to which we alluded the other day as occasioned by the switchback at the Italian Exhibition was really caused by the Canadian toboggan at the Irish Exhibition. The switchback so far has killed nobody.

Might it not be well if the committee of the Matthew Arnold Memorial, on whose behalf Lord Coleridge makes a renewed appeal this morning, were to keep its three objects distinct, and to invite subscribers to contribute to the several funds at their own discretion? At present the objects are said to be—(1) a memorial in Westminster Abbey, (2) an annuity of £250 to Mrs. Arnold, and (3) an Arnold scholarship or lectureship at Oxford in English Literature. The second object, as we understand it, will not be attempted till the first is secured, nor the third till the second. But there may be many people who would subscribe to No. 2 without caring for No. 1, and others who would subscribe to No. 3, but who are nevertheless holding back for fear of their money being absorbed by Nos. 1 and 2. The public should be given the option of subscribing *either* to a general fund *or* to any one of the above-mentioned objects.

Meanwhile, is not Lord Coleridge a little hard on Mr. W. H. Smith? Twice over he refers to Mr. Smith's refusal to continue Matthew Arnold's pension to Mrs. Arnold, and the sarcastic severity of his references seems to show that he attributes the refusal to Mr. Smith's philistinism.

But the fault is not really Mr. Smith's. The moneys at his disposal are extremely small, and it was the poverty of the fund, not the will of its administrator, that led to the refusal. The real culprits are those authors—poets and others—who keep in their prosperity the pensions granted to them in their poverty, and who thus very literally devour widows' houses.

KING JA-JA AT HOME.

By an English Visitor to his Majesty.

I had the gratification of spending several days with Ja-Ja in 1880; and I believe him to be one of the best chiefs on the West Coast of Africa. He makes his subjects work at collecting produce and constructing roads, keeping them in awe by regularly drilled soldiers armed with breech-loaders, and by war-canoes bristling with brightly polished brass cannon. Thus he also terrifies into submission all the surrounding tribes of savages. Indeed, all the natives of the sea-coast of Western Africa, with very few exceptions, are savages, and are much inferior in every way to the inland races. But those at the mouths of the rivers alluded to are still more repulsive in their appearance and degraded in their manners, and they add cannibalism to their other accomplishments. The reason of this is not far to seek. Wherever maize, wheat, millet, or any other kind of cereals grow in abundance, and goats, sheep, and cattle are plentiful, the practice of man-eating does not exist. In such countries the habit is known and talked about, and no doubt in the petty fights which form the normal condition of African tribes the most exemplary people, in moments of excitement, sharpen their teeth upon well-cooked captives. Now, at the river mouths in the Bights of Benin and Biafra there are neither goats, sheep, nor cattle. There are only thin fowls, lean dogs, long-eared rats and mice, and young crocodiles to replenish the larder; hence the practice of cannibalism; but it is gradually dying out, thanks to the influence of commerce and the example of missionaries.

Ja-Ja invites all white men who visit the Opobo river to partake of his hospitality. His invitation to our party was despatched by a canoe paddled by twenty-four boys and men, ranged on each side according to their size, all of whom were innocent of clothing. Seated on the edge of the canoe, which was almost as sharp as the chime of a cask, they bent their flexible and agile bodies, each dipping his paddle at right angles into the water, and, with words of song assisting muscular energy, they made that canoe skim along like a thing of life—as fast as the Sultan's silver dove caique on the Bosphorus. We had ten miles to travel against the downward current. A strong man stood aft and steered with a large-sized paddle, which he waved at times over his head with frantic joy. This man led the music, for without song no African can work heartily. At our request he ran the canoe close along sheltered banks, where foul-scented crocodiles gazed at us, and then plunged with a side roll into the water, affording great interest and excitement. On approaching Ja-Ja's town, cannons were fired from his land fort, and the canoe men-of-war opened out their brass-mounted jets of flame. Attendants carried us on their backs through the warlike smell of powder over the muddy banks to dry land. Then a procession formed through a lane of excited natives—a lane of all but ebony nudity. About a mile from the landing is the palace, to which we directed our steps, and, passing the sentries, we entered the grounds. Here we found Ja-Ja—then fifty-two years of age. He was adorned with a straw hat, set off to advantage with long ribands, he had only a loin cloth for full dress, but necklaces and rings made up for other garments. He resembled Othello previous to smothering Desdemona as he executed a dance before his courtiers. It is a festive scene. Gaudily covered tents, open at the sides, and furnished with seats and tables, appear here and there, and flags of gay colours, gracefully uniting houses with trees, add vivacity to the surroundings. At one end is a house of three stories high, built on the European plan, at the other end is the banqueting pavilion fitted up with decanter and bottle racks like a railway refreshment saloon. This building adjoins Ja-Ja's private residence on the ground floor. All Africans prefer sleeping as near to earth as possible and in total darkness. The whole space is of a rectangular shape, enclosed by one-storied mud houses fronting inwards, and these are the abodes of Ja-Ja's two hundred wives. His favourite, and, indeed, his only wife, at any rate the only one he seems to care for—the mother of his two sons called respectively Saturday and Sunday—has a separate house. We visit her and are received in the porch, which is ornamented and enlivened by pictures from illustrated newspapers. She is not in good health, and therefore does not join in the festivities, but she anxiously inquires from one of our party, who has recently arrived from England and has charge of her son Saturday at school there, how the boy is. The poor woman cries as she thinks she may never see him again.

All the wives—those of the regiment, so to speak—are painted with quaint blue and red devices on their breasts, bodies, backs, and arms. Their scanty but highly-flaming coloured clothing simply and jauntily sits upon their hips. Their hair is ornamented in a variety of patterns, gold and glittering glass gems sparkle on their necks and ears, and their legs and arms are well covered with brass rings. They look uncommonly wicked with their great eyes of wonderment, and are bent on amusement in the form of pulling their friends about, and dancing, singing, and shouting. Away they troop, to the wild music played by professional drummers, strummers on stringed instruments, and blowers of horns. The men dance in separate groups. They are bathed in perspiration caused by violent exercise, and they shine very like wet eels. Crowds admire them, giving praise to those who cut the best-loved antics, in really high-toned screeching.

Ja-Ja meantime has gone to his pagan temple to offer up his devotions. It is whispered that his executioners cut off the heads of fourteen malefactors that morning; and it is in the same manner intimated that it is well not to ask any questions, as doing so, however mildly put, would be apt to ruffle his temper. We proceed through several darkened chambers into a room hung round with black cloth, where a light burns so dim that it only shows the darkness. An altar, about five feet high, is at one end of this sanctuary; on it are a collection of articles of fetish, such as strings of the teeth of leopards, of sharks also, and the vertebræ of snakes. Ja-Ja, surrounded by a very silent congregation, is bent down towards the ground, but he is engaged on something very solemn, with blood—I believe human blood. After a few muttered observations, followed by louder responses—which alone break the painful silence—he rises from the earth, and lifting on high a jar, which he steadies carefully, places it upon the altar. To ask what that jar contains is not to be thought of, but it is some pagan ritual in connection with the headless bodies in the vicinity. Presently palm wine is handed round to everybody; the service is over, and we gladly escape from darkness into sunshine. Now begin the revels in earnest. Rum flows freely, and its perfume taints the atmosphere. Retainers approach the guests, carrying trays laden with luscious fruits. The pop of the champagne bottle is heard, but its brand is doubtful, so brandy and soda prevail, not only on account of its being a longer drink, but that it yields more potent charms. Smoke from cigars and pipes ascends out of tent sides and through the trees; and over all peacocks and grey parrots fly, shrieking after the manner of their kind. In the guest-house we are shown the royal crown (made of excellent Dutch gold and glass diamonds) and also the throne—a very respectable one. A sword with gold scabbard, its hilt decorated with genuine precious stones, lies upon the table: its inscription states that it is a present from her Majesty Queen Victoria to King Ja-Ja for his assistance during the Ashantee war. Ja-Ja sent some of his drilled warriors to Ashantee—by steamboat of course. We were introduced to the gladiator who commanded them.

We sit down to dinner as the sun sets, and suddenly the usual tropical darkness ensues. The banquet is arrayed in good style. Turkeys and young kids form the principal dishes. A basin of palaver sauce stands alongside each man's plate—this sauce is an exquisite compound of hot peppers, fragrant herbs, and fresh palm oil. It is admirable, and must be tasted to be loved. Great platters of fou-fou—mashed yams—are speedily emptied and replenished. All use knives and forks excepting Ja-Ja, who grabs with his fingers at the fou-fou, tearing pieces from the lumps, rolling them up and dipping them in the palaver sauce previous to eating them. He tears the ribs of kids apart in a similar manner, dives them into the same sauce, and with evident relish picks them clean. I could not help fancying that Ja-Ja was devouring a baby, the kid was so tender, and he looked so very like that nursery terror who wanted to eat Jack the giant killer. A nude girl stands behind Ja-Ja's chair—poor child, she is trembling with fear: she holds a basin of scented water and a towel—he used up about half a dozen such serviettes and the same number of basins of rose-water during the meal. There are plenty of waiters. Although no ladies are visible, yet we can hear them giggling and making observations. They are looking on from somewhere. A Court fool stands beside the innocent basin-holder in shape of an abandoned negress imported from Liberia. She is constantly making jokes and singing obscene songs, which pass current with Ja-Ja as the correct thing for monarchs to listen to.

There is no Court chaplain to say grace and return thanks, for Ja-Ja objects to missionaries, and will not allow them to enter his realm, because, as he says, "they would interfere with his politics"—a habit which some missionaries are very much inclined to. All things must end, and so did that dinner; but it was instantly followed by materials for dissipation being placed on the table. Decanters and bottles of rum, gin, whiskey, and brandy, pipes, cigars, and tobacco, like the effect of the wand wave of a magician, took the place of the viands. Then conversation became general. One topic referred to was the failure of the Glasgow bank. Ja-Ja said in his quaint broken English, "Me no sabby (know) which way a man go give money to another man to keep for him, when he no see them man, no sabby them man. More better he go dig hole for ground and put money there. Then he sabby, one time, where money live."

In the cool night, our paths illuminated by moonlight and fire-flies, we rambled forth to visit chief Soby and other great men. Universal festivity and dancing prevailed at every place. It was delicious to breathe the pure air, and to wander by the banks of the romantic lagoons, adorned with the larger description of white lilies, where the æsthetically inclined could lie down beside the sublime, and take fever after the most approved fashion. Two days with Ja-Ja are sufficient. I leave the reader to form his own reflections upon the luxurious life of a pagan despot. Ja-Ja is not exactly an amiable character, but he is the right man to rule the savages of Opobo, and he ought to be reinstated under the control of the British Consul; his sons may, after their European education is completed, be an improvement upon their eccentric papa, Ja-Ja.

THE PRESS AND MUNICIPAL SCANDALS.

RESIGNATION OF THE GAS MANAGER AT HALIFAX.

FOR three months past the community of Halifax has been in a state of ferment. Early in June we published a Note commenting on the notorious Salford case, which ended in Hunter, the gas manager, being sent to penal servitude for perjury and fraud, and, referring to the fact that charges of corruption had been brought against officials in other towns, we wound up with the remark: "We should hear shortly of disclosures in Halifax if the parties concerned dare to court inquiry." This sentence was penned on the strength of information that charges of corruption had been made by responsible parties, and, as it afterwards transpired, a letter had been received from Mr. Thomas Fox, of the Silkstone Coal Company, Barnsley, in which he said: "I am informed, on very good authority, that one man has an interest, directly or indirectly, in many contracts with the gas department of the Corporation of Halifax; and it would be well that the matter should be sifted to the bottom. Halifax cannot desire a repetition of the Salford scandal." When the people of Halifax learned that these charges had been made, thanks to a large extent to the editor of a local paper—the *Weekly Times*—the Corporation determined to take some action, and we received the following letter:—

Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Halifax, 22nd June.

DEAR SIR,—I am desired by the Mayor of this borough to draw your attention to an article headed as above, in your issue of the 7th instant, and which concludes with the following sentence, viz,: "We should hear shortly of disclosures in Halifax, if the parties concerned dare to court inquiry." This article has been copied into a local paper called the *Halifax Times* (a copy of which is sent herewith). The editor in commenting on your article alleges that it is a distinct charge of corruption against the Gas Committee of the Halifax Corporation, or their servants, or both, and they are dared to court inquiry, and very properly ends by stating that neither the Corporation, nor committee, nor their servants, can afford to remain silent. The allegation is now a matter of the greatest interest in the town, and the general opinion is that the question should be sifted to the bottom. In the first place I should be glad to know from you whether the complexion put upon your article is a correct one, and, if so, whether you will assist the mayor to get to the bottom of the matter. The Corporation court the fullest inquiry.—Yours truly, KEIGHLEY WALTON, Town Clerk.

Not feeling it incumbent upon us to fight the battle of the ratepayers of Halifax and their rulers, we replied that we "did not propose at present to add anything to the Note" to which attention was called. The town clerk wrote again, repeating his first statement that "the Corporation accept the challenge made by you and not only dare, but do court the fullest inquiry." As this was their mood. Mr. Thomas Fox was quite willing to meet them, and proposed, on the condition that he received an indemnity for his costs, to prove his charges. At various meetings of the Halifax Town Council the subject was discussed, and a good deal of tall talk was indulged in. The rumours were declared to be "vile slanders," and the suggestion of commissions and corruption was scouted as impossible. Mr. Fox came in for his share of denunciation, but he would not be moved from his determination to proceed no further with his charges until he had received an indemnity. After a great deal of shilly-shallying, the Council resolved to give the guarantee asked for, but eventually they rescinded this resolution, and went on a new tack. They came to the resolution to call upon Mr. Carr, their gas manager, as they considered that he was "directly implicated in the charge," to take action, not against Mr. Fox, who had mentioned his name, but against the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which had not. When this was named to Mr. Carr, he replied, "I am not prepared to spend any money over it." But, said the mayor, that need not be an objection, for if the Council would not indemnify him against any loss, he was prepared personally to do so, provided he proved that he was innocent. He assured Mr. Carr that he should not be one farthing out of pocket—that all they wanted him to do was to take action and prove these charges to be groundless. "Well, notwithstanding these explanations (we quote from the Mayor's speech at the meeting of the Council on the 5th inst.), Mr. Carr did not seem willing to take action. Therefore the only alternative for the committee was to tell Mr. Carr that he must either take action against the *Pall Mall Gazette* or send in his resignation. That was the conclusion the committee had come to. They must insist upon Mr. Carr taking action, holding him free from costs if he proved his innocence, or else resign." The mayor therefore proposed a resolution to the effect that Mr. William Carr, the gas manager, be requested to commence an action for libel against the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the Council to indemnify Mr. Carr against costs, and in case of his declining to do so, that he be asked to resign his position as gas manager.

This resolution was duly seconded, supported, and adopted unanimously. After three months' consideration, the gas manager was thus forced either to raise an action against ourselves, with the assurance that he would not be a penny out of pocket, provided he was innocent, or resign his position, worth nominally £500 per annum. Mr. Carr has not taken long to make his choice between the horns of the dilemma, but has sent in his resignation to the mayor. The conclusion which will be drawn from this act in Halifax and elsewhere is obvious.

SWITCHBACK ACCIDENTS.

Mr. A. G. Bateman, writing from the Italian Exhibition, says:—

In your "Occasional Notes" of Saturday's issue you begin a paragraph with the statement that "the switchback at the Italian Exhibition has killed its man, or rather its woman." Will you allow me, as one of the medical staff of the Exhibition, to correct this statement? There has not been a single accident of even the mildest description on this railway from the date of opening up to the present time. The death you referred to took place at one of the other exhibitions.

At Home and Abroad.

The Emperor William is officially announced to arrive in Vienna on the morning of Thursday, October 4. His Majesty will stay, as the guest of the Emperor Francis Joseph, at the Imperial Chateau in the suburb of Schönbrunn.

Several rivers in the Tyrol have overflowed their banks. At Innsbruck and Landeck the cellars of the houses are flooded. In the Adige district bridges have been swept away, and many villages are inundated.

The reports of the American crops show a considerable amount of damage arising from weather and insects, to cotton, wheat, oats, and barley. Indian corn is stated to be a fine crop.

The demobilization of the Fleet was completed yesterday by the paying off of the *Inflexible* at Portsmouth. The *Hecla*, torpedo depot ship, is ordered to be commissioned, about the end of October, for the Mediterranean Fleet.

Applying generally to the West-end divisions, the Association for Women's Rights have under consideration the desirableness of submitting at least four lady candidates for the suffrages of the electors.

The Shrewsbury Town Council yesterday unanimously resolved to petition the Council of the National Rifle Association to select Cannock Chase for the annual meetings of the association.

The first general meeting of the Fulham Women's Liberal Association was held yesterday at the Fulham Liberal Club, when it was resolved that immediate steps should be taken to affiliate to the Women's Liberal Federation.

At the Lambeth police-court yesterday, Frederick James Percival, twenty-seven years of age, a clerk, was committed for trial on a charge of having attempted to shoot his father.

At Bromley sessions yesterday Peter Selby, an old man, was ordered to pay £3, with costs, for violently striking Frank Overton in the eye at Foots Cray, the result being that the right eye had to be removed.

The French Chamber will shortly be asked to suspend the corn tax. The wheat harvest of France is spoiled by the long-continued rains, and the working classes are in this time of strikes not in a mood to put up with bread being made artificially dear.

Several revision courts were held in London yesterday. In the City of London Court the question of the radius for electors to the County Council was commented upon, and the Revising Barrister stated that he would give a written judgment on the subject.

At a meeting of the British Association at Bath yesterday the council elected Professor Flower, of South Kensington, as the president of next year's meeting, at Newcastle, and fixed upon Leeds as the place of meeting for 1890.

The Manchester city council has applied to the Board of Trade for leave to borrow nearly half a million of money, to be spent on sewerage works. The inquiry was opened yesterday, when it was stated that ninety-four acres of land had been purchased as a place for the deposit of refuse.

Before the Barnet bench of magistrates yesterday upwards of twelve thieves were either sent for trial or committed to periods of hard labour for stealing watches, in some cases with violence, from well-to-do people who were enjoying themselves at Barnet Fair.

A married woman named Pearce, residing at Whitstable, yesterday attempted to commit suicide by jumping into a well. She declared that her character had been maligned, and that life was a misery to her. She was dragged out in an exhausted condition.

At midnight yesterday a butler named Leslie, employed at Alton, shot his dog, and afterwards shot himself through the neck. The coachman, alarmed by the shots, ran in and knocked the gun from the butler's hands just as he was about to fire again. The wounded man is detained in the hospital.

The annual conference of the Irish National League of Great Britain having been arranged to be held at Birmingham at the end of September, the chief constable of that town has informed the promoters of the conference that the programme as to processions to open-air meetings must be submitted to him.

A cotton picker was found in a dying condition behind the carriage of a spinning mule in a Blackburn cotton mill yesterday. It was suspected that something was wrong with the machinery, and it was stopped. It was then found that the lad's head had been terribly crushed between the carriage and the roller beam.

The Prince of Wales arrived in Vienna yesterday. In the course of the day the Emperor called on his Royal Highness, and remained with him for half an hour. Subsequently the Crown Prince had an interview, and both these visits were returned. In the evening the Prince of Wales went to the Hofburg, where the Emperor gave a State dinner in his honour.

A number of Belgrade journals were confiscated yesterday for having published an authorized denial concerning a fabricated version of Queen Nathalie's reply to King Milan's accusations. A Vienna correspondent says that nearly the whole country espouses the side of the Queen, and the enforcement of a divorce would be attended with great peril.

An inquest was held yesterday at Ellesmere, Cheshire, on the body of a boy, thirteen years of age, who was killed while employed in turning points on the railway at the works of the Manchester Ship Canal. Some surprise was expressed at so young a boy being engaged at that work, but it was stated that he had represented himself to be older.

The excitement in connection with the Limoges strikes is calming down. It is said on official authority that the conflict at Allasac was not so bad as it was painted. Only two women were seriously injured by the bayonets. The accounts which first reached Paris were, it is averred, from Boulangist and Bonapartist sources.

The prosecutions arising out of the Coolroe evictions were continued at Arthurstown yesterday, when Mr. Leamy, M.P., addressed the court on behalf of the defendants, Mr. W. Ryan, Q.C., replying on behalf of the Crown. One of the defendants was discharged, and in the cases of the eleven others the bench reserved judgment pending the hearing of a charge of assault.

TO STOUT PEOPLE.—*Sunday Times* says:—"Mr. Russell's aim is to eradicate, to cure the disease, and that his treatment is the true one seems beyond all doubt. The medicine he prescribes does not ower, but builds up and tones the system." Book (116 pages) with recipe and notes how to pleasantly and rapidly cure obesity (average reduction in first week is 3 lb.), post free eight stamps.—F. C. RUSSELL, Woburn House, Store street, Bedford-square, London, W.C.

DANGEROUS CRISIS IN SERVIA.

THE PEOPLE RALLYING TO THEIR QUEEN.

FEARS OF AUSTRIAN INTERVENTION.

There is serious news from Vienna. King Milan's insensate conduct towards his wife seems to be hurrying on a crisis which may hurl him from the throne. According to the *Standard's* correspondent at Vienna, who telegraphed yesterday, it is beyond doubt that nearly the entire country espouses the side of the Queen, and consequently that an enforcement of a divorce either by pressure on the Ecclesiastical Courts, or by a vote of the Skuptshina, would be attended with great peril to the King, if not to the existing dynasty. What is difficult to understand is the want of discernment shown by the King. Trustworthy reports represent Servia in a state of dangerous fermentation. What a successful revolution might mean may be inferred from the circumstance that Peter Karageorgevich, who would soon succeed the Queen Regent and her boy, is the son-in-law of the Prince of Montenegro, and the very man to attempt the establishment of Russian ascendency in Servia. To this Austria would, probably, respond by sending two Army Corps into the country, her occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina leaving her no alternative. Such considerations should be sufficient to deter King Milan from prosecuting his demand for a divorce.

It is only necessary to add that if an Austrian soldier puts a foot inside Servia, it will be equivalent to war with Russia.

PUTTING CANADA IN A STATE OF DEFENCE.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD AND LORD SALISBURY.

At the meeting of the Dominion Cabinet on Saturday, Mr. Langevin and Mr. Thompson agreed, says the *Standard* correspondent, that Canada must prepare for retaliation, and Mr. Thompson said the contingency of war must be considered. The Premier, Sir John Macdonald, said the talk about war was moonshine; retaliation, if it should be begun, would scarcely survive the United States Presidential campaign. The majority of the Ministers, however, agreed that the Dominion should be put into a thoroughly defensive state immediately. Sir J. Macdonald or Mr. Thompson may go to London, continues the correspondent, as the exchange of despatches with Lord Salisbury is not satisfactory. Sir John is pleased with the prospect of the effect that retaliation will have upon Dominion politics, and thinks it will serve as the basis for a demand upon the Home Government for a grant of several millions sterling, to develop strategical and commercial railways. The patronage and expenditure involved in such a project, and the impetus it would give to a national policy, would be helps to his Government that Sir J. Macdonald would highly appreciate. Some of the Canadian Ministers are reported to have said that President Cleveland's policy would be regarded as a breach of the relations provided for by the Anglo-American Treaty.

Lord Stanley of Preston, the Governor-General, arrived at Toronto yesterday, and was cordially received. His Excellency paid a visit to the Chambers of the Board of Trade, where, referring to the remarks of President Cleveland touching the Fisheries Question, he complimented the Canadians on their calm and dignified while firm attitude at the present crisis.

OUR TROUBLES IN ZULULAND.

SURRENDER OF DINIZULU.

A Reuter's telegram dated Pietermaritzburg this morning states that the Transvaal Border Commissioner, Mr. Lucas Meyer, who left Vryheid last month in command of an armed force with orders to capture Dinizulu, has returned there, and reports that the Zulus have been disarmed, and that Dinizulu has surrendered solely to the Transvaal Government, on the assurance that they will not hand him over to the English. He is now in the custody of the Transvaal police. He is ill at the present time, but when he has recovered he will be taken to Vryheid. It is believed that Undabuko has fled to Tongaland, and that he is entirely without followers.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

FATAL EXPLOSION OF A THRESHING MACHINE.

PARIS, Sept. 11.—The boiler of a threshing machine exploded yesterday at Ciron, in the department of Indre, killing eight men on the spot and injuring five others.

FLOODS IN AMERICA.

NEW YORK, Sept. 11.—A despatch from Augusta states that the Savannah river is rising and that the town is flooded. The cotton factories at the west-end of the town have stopped work and merchants are removing their goods.

MORE CLERGYMEN THAN BRIDESMAIDS.

Miss Mary Georgina Constance Nisbet Hamilton, of Biel, Haddingtonshire, was this morning married in the private chapel at Biel to Henry, son of Sir John Ogilvy, of Baldovan, Forfarshire. There was a brilliant company. The Bishop of Edinburgh officiated, assisted by five clergymen. There were no bridesmaids. Lord Sherborne was groomsman. The bride wore a dress of rich ivory broché velvet, fastened with diamond buttons and trimmed with heather and hawthorn. Her veil was surmounted by a tiara of diamonds, with a sprig of myrtle. The bride and bridegroom stayed at home, the guests being understood to leave Biel before two o'clock.

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THE PALL MALL BUDGET is sent post free to any address in the United Kingdom for 4s. 11d. per quarter.

PROFESSOR VAMBERY IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Professor Arminius Vambéry arrived yesterday morning by the International Express at Constantinople, and was received by various deputations and a vast crowd at the station. His impending arrival was announced in a special article of the *Levant Herald*, which extolled the merits of the Professor both as a Turkish scholar and as a political friend of the Osman Empire. Professor Vambéry has not visited Constantinople for a quarter of a century, and his present journey is entirely without a political character. He will, however, be received by the Sultan, in recognition of his services to Turkish letters. He is travelling in company with Dr. Fraknoi, the general secretary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. They are likely to extend their tour to Asia Minor and the south of Russia.

A GERMAN DEFENCE OF SIR MORELL MACKENZIE.

Dr. Kleist, an eminent German physician, has published a timely defence of Sir Morell Mackenzie from the recent attacks of some of his confrères. "Is it possible (he asks) to say why the English physician adhered so steadily to his diagnosis? Is it possible to comprehend all the influences of which the outside world as yet knows nothing? May it not be possible, nay, even probable, that Mackenzie may have recognized the true nature of the disease, but could expect no results, or only the worst results, from the operation, and for this reason gave his definite veto and protest against the diagnosis of cancer? Is it impossible that, having acquainted the illustrious family with all eventualities, and having given them a statement of the duration of life in both cases, they would not consent to the operation?"

IMPENDING MARRIAGE OF THE CHINESE EMPEROR.

It is officially stated that the marriage of the young Emperor of China, who is now in his eighteenth year, will take place on the 24th day of the First Moon in 1889. Two millions of taels—equal to half-a-million sterling—have been granted from the public revenues to defray the expenses of the ceremony and the accompanying festivities, and twice that sum has been subscribed by the people in the provinces. Some doubts of the spontaneity of these "benevolences," however, are suggested by the fact that express couriers have for some time been traversing the vast empire charged with the mission of impressing on the local authorities the necessity for paying up by the end of the year.

MURDER OF WIFE AND CHILD BY A PRIEST.

A terrible crime has just been committed at Olavarria, in the Argentine Republic, by the priest of the parish, Pedro Castro Rodriguez. Some years ago he contrived to contract marriage under a false name. His wife must have afterwards become acquainted with her husband's real position, for in order to avoid scandal, she went to reside at Buenos Ayres, together with a daughter born of the union. She had a certain amount of money, which, at her husband's suggestion, she lodged in his name at a bank. Pedro Rodriguez determined to get rid of both his wife and child. He got to Olavarria and poisoned them. He had, as he thought, taken such precautions as to secure impunity, and had got a coffin ready in the church, where he placed the two bodies during the night. They were buried the next day in the village cemetery, the priest having secured a certificate under a false name and given it to the sexton. The latter's suspicions, however, had been aroused by seeing some spots of blood on the wall of the church and in the passage leading to the priest's house, and he communicated them to the chief of the police at La Plata, who at once put the priest under arrest, exhumed the bodies, and obtained a full confession of what had occurred.

A CHINESE CLAN FIGHT AND THE SEQUEL.

A recent *Pekin Gazette* contains a memorial from the Governor of the province of Hunan respecting recent clan feuds, for which part of that province is notorious. In 1874, in one of these fights, twenty persons were killed; the survivors were dealt with in a very summary fashion, and for some time the quarrelsome disposition of the people was kept under control. Lately, however, there have been two serious feuds in the same district, in one of which nineteen lives were lost; and now the Governor reports another in which twenty-seven persons met their deaths, and a large number—sixteen it appears—are awaiting execution. Two powerful clans, the Hus and the Hsiehs (these being the respective surnames), had long had a feud. Near the lands of both was a hill belonging to a family named Chin, which recently died out, and both clans claimed possession. Each wanted to oust the other, and a perpetual struggle was maintained as to which should have sole enjoyment of it. One day, when the Hus were removing felled trees from the wood, the whole Hsieh clan, numbering thirty-six able-bodied men, and well armed, marched to the principal Hu village, heralding their approach with cries for vengeance. The Hus, hearing the noise, rushed home and hastily armed themselves. The Hus, being outnumbered, were forced to retreat to another of their villages, and on the way were surrounded in a field, where they were under a heavy fire. The result of the fight was that three of the Hsiehs were killed and twenty-four of the Hus, while a number were wounded on both sides. The Governor of Hunan here steps in and somewhat redresses the balance; he instantly cut off the head of the Hsieh leader, sentenced fourteen of his followers to decapitation, and asks the Emperor's permission to carry out the sentence without delay. He also suggests, in view of the frequency and violence of these fights, that in future he may be allowed to execute the combatants on the spot without reference to Pekin. Many members of each clan, who took no active part in the fray, received 100 blows each, and the elders who did not keep their people in due order were also soundly flogged.

"A PARALLEL WITH THE McNEILL MURDER."

The Guernsey correspondent of a news agency telegraphs:—"Some particulars have just been received here of a mysterious murder of an English tourist at St. Malo, which was perpetrated last week. The facts as far as it is possible to gather are these. An English gentleman named Clarkson and his adopted son were on a visit to St. Malo from Cardiff. Last Wednesday they had dined at a restaurant, and after dinner the son, who was about twenty-three years of age, and is understood to have been a clerk in the employment of the Great Western Railway Company at Penarth, left the restaurant to go to an adjacent tobacconist's. As he did not return, his father the following morning placed the matter in the hands of the police, and was informed by them that the body of an Englishman had that morning been picked up on the beach several miles away, and was then in the mortuary. On visiting that place Mr. Clarkson found the body to be that of his son. All the valuables in the possession of the deceased, including a gold watch and chain and several pounds in English gold, had been stolen, nothing being left except a few coppers. The body was conveyed to England by the steamship *Acquila* on Saturday, and was met at Guernsey by the mother of the deceased. The affair presents a striking parallel with the circumstances, which will be well remembered, in connection with the death of the late journalist Mr. Archibald McNeill at Boulogne.

For FEUILLETON, see page 13.

FOURTH EDITION.

FATAL DISASTER ON A CAPE STEAMER.

TEN MEN SUFFOCATED.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CAPE TOWN, Sept. 11.—A singular and fatal disaster occurred in the docks here last night. A fire broke out in the coal bunkers of the mail steamer *Pembroke Castle*, and ten coolies were suffocated before help could reach them. Three of the crew and three officers while trying to effect the rescue of the coolies were overcome by the fumes, and are now lying in a precarious condition. The damage to the ship and cargo is not extensive.

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BREMERHAVEN, Sept. 11.—The Emperor William arrived here at half-past one this morning, and immediately proceeded, under the guidance of Herr Lohmann (director of the Norddeutscher Lloyd Company) to the Lloyd Hall, which was brilliantly decorated, and thence to the quay, where a boat from the Imperial yacht *Hohenzollern* was waiting to convey him on board. The Emperor embarked, and was rowed to the ship. Despite the late hour of his arrival a great many people were about.

MARRIAGES TO-DAY.

The marriage of the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hopwood, of Ketton Hall, Rutland, and niece of the Earl and Countess of Suffolk (both of whom were present at the marriage), with the Rev. C. E. Ellwood, rector of Cottesmore, was solemnized in the parish church of Ketton this morning quite quietly, owing to the death of the bride's sister, whose marriage was only recorded in our columns a short time since. The bride's dress was entirely composed of Brussels lace, the bodice and train of rich Sicilienne silk falling in long plain folds at the back, the front trimmed with bunches of orange flowers. She wore a large plain tulle veil, and carried a bouquet of rare exotics, made by Miss Eleanor Hopwood, who was her chief bridesmaid, the others being Miss Wardrop and Miss Evelyn Ellwood, who were gowned in pale grey cashmere with gathered gilets and white crêpe de chine, and revers of grey cashmere. They wore ostrich feathers and white tulle veils, with sprays of purple clematis and bouquets of the same. Their presents from the bridegroom were gold bangles with "1888" in pearls. Mr. Wilfrid Stopford was the best man. After a reception at Ketton Hall, the bride and bridegroom left for Charlton Park, Malmesbury.

The Hon. and Rev. J. Horatio Nelson, rector of Shaw, Newbury, Berks, officiated this morning in the Church of St. Michael, Bray, at the marriage, of Miss Mabel Powys Pratt-Barlow, daughter of Mr. Arthur Pratt Barlow, of Great Cumberland-place, Hyde Park, and Mr. C. R. Sillery Sainsbury, of the 1st Dorsetshire Regiment. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of white faille française, with full bodice and a large sash of the same material, and white hat trimmed with fine ostrich feathers. Only the near relatives of the families were present at the ceremony, and afterwards they were entertained at the residence of the bride's sister's (Mrs. C. Russell Hole); and in the afternoon the newly-married pair left to spend the early days of the honeymoon at Sonning.

THE WANDSWORTH EXPLOSION.

ADJOURNED INQUEST TO-DAY.

The inquest on the bodies of the three girls killed in the recent explosion at a Wandsworth Fireworks Factory was resumed to-day. The coroner said he had received several anonymous letters, in which it was boldly stated that three men acting in concert had fired the place. He at once placed the matter in the hands of the police, and the men would now be called as witnesses.

Charles Hancock, the sweetheart of one of the girls, said he was at work the whole of the day in question at a place which was quite a mile from the scene of the accident. He did not leave till five o'clock, and knew nothing of the explosion until he knocked off work.

Joseph Hides and James Holloway also satisfactorily accounted for their whereabouts on the day of the explosion, and the evidence of all three was corroborated by a police-inspector.

MOVEMENTS OF THE CHANNEL SQUADRON.

The Channel Squadron will leave Portsmouth on the 15th inst., arriving at Scarborough on the 18th. It will leave again on the 21st. arriving at Leith on the 23rd, and leaving on the 28th. The ports to be subsequently called at will depend upon circumstances. The squadron returns to Portsmouth on November 14.

ACCIDENT AT AN UNDERGROUND STATION.

A lady was descending the dark and slippery stairs leading to the Underground Railway station at Westminster last night, when her foot slipped and she fell heavily, striking her head against the metal edge of the steps, and injuring her arm and side. She was picked up unconscious, and still remains in a serious condition.

WITH THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT BATH.

ECONOMIC SECTION.—Mr. Inglis Palgrave presided over the Economic Section, before the members of which Mr. Rhodes read Mr. Charles Harrison's paper on leasehold enfranchisement. The author strongly denounced the evils and hardships of the London leasehold system, and advocated the freehold system as being the most perfect of all known systems of land tenure, or in the alternative, the fee-farm, or rent-charge system. A discussion followed, and the necessity for reform was generally admitted, the expropriated landlord being in all cases of enfranchisement compensated.

LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.—The business of the Mathematical Mechanical Sections was opened with a joint discussion on lightning conductors, opened by Mr. Preece and Professor Oliver Lodge.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE AT TURIN.

ARRIVAL OF THE WEDDING GUESTS.

The Duke D'Aosta and the Princess Letitia, his niece, were married this morning at the Royal Palace, Turin. The King and Queen and the Prince of Naples arrived at Turin shortly after five o'clock yesterday, accompanied by the King and Queen of Portugal, the Duke of Oporto, and a numerous suite. They were met at the station by Princess Mathilde and Prince Jerome Bonaparte, who were cordially received by the people, as well as by all the members of the Italian Royal Family now there. According to one newspaper correspondent, an immense assemblage of persons in the neighbourhood of the station welcomed the King and family with affectionate demonstrations and the respect they always receive in Turin. According to another correspondent, the demonstration was by no means remarkable in spite of the mayor's request, previously well advertised by posters, for a special display of enthusiasm.

THE DUKE OF AOSTA.

PRINCESS LETITIA.

Princess Letitia, with her mother, came into Turin yesterday morning from Moncalieri, and took up their quarters in the Royal Palace. The Princess was surrounded by an escort of officers, and was most enthusiastically received by the people. Prince Jerome Bonaparte, with his son, Louis, Princess Mathilde, and other members of the family, had already arrived. It is said that the young Princess greatly regrets the absence of her eldest brother, Victor, to whom she is much attached; but the entire family of Savoy, headed by the King, agree in reprobating his conduct in setting up interests different from those of his father, Prince Jerome, whom alone they can consider as the head and leader of the Bonaparte family. *La Patrie* says: Prince Victor will not go to Turin, because he cannot accept the political conditions which his father, Prince Napoleon, wished to impose in order to permit of their meeting at this family gathering. Prince Victor will never renounce the principles and doctrines of the Napoleons.

The witnesses for the bride at the civil ceremony were her cousins, Prince Louis, the Duke d'Aosta's second son, and Prince Charles Bonaparte. Those of the bridegroom are General Della Rocca, Senior Knight of the Order of the Santissima Annunziata, upon whom Victor Emmanuel bestowed the Grand Collar of that order, for services rendered during the campaign of 1859, and Count Balbo, of the Prince's household. The gifts of the Municipality to the bride consist of rich stuffs of antique design, and a bridal chest. The latter, copied from one of the sixteenth century, is a beautiful work of art; it is covered with flowers in relief, in colours and gold and silver, with the letters of the bride's name in silver.

It is said that the infection in Turin of this Royal marriage has been most malignant, for over a hundred couples gave notice of their desire to be united at the same hour; but a portion only can be accommodated, even after considerably increasing the force of officials at the Municipality.

A BRIEF FOR SIR C. RUSSELL "IN THE MORNING."

A young man named Skinner was fined five shillings at the Marlborough-street police-court to-day for being drunk in Tottenham-court-road last night. He complained to a constable that a man had insulted him. The constable advised him to follow the man's example and go away. This he refused to do, valiantly declaring that he did not care for the police, but that if charged he would get Sir Charles Russell to defend him in the morning. He now admitted that he was drunk—hence the above fine.

"ALL THAT GLITTERS," &c.

A merchant named Grier, who hails from County Cavan, was walking in Shaftesbury-avenue about one o'clock this morning. In his scarf was a pin in which were set some very brilliant imitation stones. The pin attracted the attention of some young men in the neighbourhood, who surrounded him while one of them very deftly abstracted it. Such was the story told at Marlborough-street this morning, when it also came out that the brilliant scarf pin was not valued at more than 2*s.* 6*d.* A policeman saw the pin stolen, and the thief, who had nothing to say for himself, was sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

TWO FAILURES IN LONDON.

At the London Bankruptcy Court to-day, Mr. Registrar Hazlitt, upon the application of Mr. Stanley J. Attenborough, on behalf of the petitioning creditors, made a receiving order against G. W. Smith, jeweller, of 37, Old Broad-street, and Stafford-street, W. The liabilities are returned at £10,000, against assets about £3,000, of which the stock is estimated at £2,700.

At the same court the first meeting was held before the Official Receiver of the creditors of E. Burgess Smith, stockbroker, of Tokenhouse-buildings, Lothbury. The failure took place on August 2, and the accounts since filed show gross liabilities £21,516 13*s.* 5*d.*, of which £16,915 is unsecured, and assets £3,469. A scheme was proposed to wind up as in bankruptcy; but in view of the difficulty of getting it confirmed by the court, it was resolved to wind up in bankruptcy, with Mr. W. S. Ogle as trustee of the estate.

The Paris *Gaulois* states that the King of Greece is said to have expressed his intention to abdicate after his son's marriage with a Princess of the German Imperial family.

THE MURDER EPIDEMIC.

At the Barnsley police-court yesterday, Henry Hey, late landlord of the Blacksmiths' Arms, Millhouse, near Barnsley, was charged with the wilful murder of Margaret Hill, a domestic servant in his employ at Millhouse, on September 3. Thomas Smith, a steelworker, who entered the room shortly after the murder was committed, said that in reply to a question as to what he had been doing the prisoner said, "I have shot her." Dr. Wilson said that his behaviour gave him the impression that he was suffering from delirium tremens. He was committed for trial.

A terrible murder was perpetrated last night at Lockwood, near Huddersfield. A cabman, named Charles Bulmer, was observed quarrelling with his wife about ten o'clock, and a few minutes afterwards a neighbour going to their house found the woman on her face in a pool of blood, with a gash in her throat almost severing the head from the body. The man then proceeded to a neighbour's house, where he washed his hands and left a case of razors stained with blood. He afterwards surrendered himself to the police.

James Neil, who is alleged to have murdered his wife at Garston on the 29th ult., was committed for trial on the capital charge by the county magistrates at Liverpool yesterday. The prisoner assaulted the woman with cruel ferocity for two hours. He battered her unmercifully, kicked her head against the floor, threw a table on her stomach, struck her with a stool, and finally raked red hot cinders on to her naked breast and tried to roast her to death. He had said he would "swing for her."

Two young women, named Margaret Johnson and Rose Ann Auguste, and a youth, named Michael Mullaney, were charged at Sunderland police-court yesterday with robbing and causing the death of George Harrod, a ship-captain, on Sunday. On Sunday morning about ten the two women were seen walking in a low part of Sunderland with the deceased. Johnson was seen to put her hand in deceased's pocket and take his purse out, empty it into her hand, and put it back. Auguste was seen to take the earrings out of deceased's ears and put them in her pocket. They then left Harrod leaning against the wall, and shortly after he was found lying dead. The prisoners were remanded for a week.

James Curtin, charged with the murder of John Forham, and recently discharged for want of evidence, was this morning rearrested on the sworn information of the murdered man's son, who witnessed the murder. He states that he was coerced by his family to hold back from giving evidence, but insists that Curtin is the assassin.

THE LIBERAL SPLIT IN FINSBURY.

Mr. Naoroji addressed a meeting of Liberals in Central Finsbury last night. Mr. J. H. Eve took the chair. Mr. Naoroji, who was received with enthusiastic applause, said that he was a Home Ruler. His whole time would be placed at the disposal of his constituents. Though he was anxious to be in Parliament to raise his voice for the millions of India, he should not forget his duty to his constituents. The council of the association, as well as the association itself, three times voted him in at the top of the poll. Mr. Naoroji read a letter from Mr. Jacobs congratulating him upon his selection, but several of the Liberal opponents of Mr. Naoroji's candidature demanded whether the letter was official or not, and this led to scenes of great disorder. The candidate then said his course was clear, and in justice to himself and his supporters he ought to go to the poll, and he would go to the poll.

ALARMING EARTHQUAKE IN GREECE.

The town of Vostitza, near Patras, was on Sunday night the scene of an earthquake, that resulted in loss of life and considerable destruction of property. A number of houses have been reduced to heaps of ruins, and all the buildings in the place are more or less damaged. From the débris two dead persons have been recovered, in addition to many others who escaped with broken limbs or slighter injuries. All the villages in the country for several miles round Vostitza have suffered more or less severely. The inhabitants were all seized with panic. They ran out of their houses, and passed the night in the open air. The telegraphic cable between Corinth and Patras was cut in two. The earthquake was more or less felt in a thousand other places, at remote distances from Vostitza. The Hellenic Government, on learning the facts, sent immediate assistance to the sufferers, and M. Tricoupis, the Premier, accompanied by several high officials, started at midnight in order to visit the scene.

PRESENTATION TO IRISH LEADERS.

The freedom of the city of Waterford was yesterday formally conferred upon Mr. W. O'Brien, M.P., and Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P. The certificates of freedom were presented in the town-hall, where sundry addresses were at the same time presented to them. The mayor, in conferring the freedom, said they were conferring an additional honour, if that were possible, on two of Balfour's criminals, and he envied them their position as criminals. Mr. O'Brien, in reply, said that so far as Mr. Parnell and his party were concerned it was their boast that they represented no particular section of the Irish people; but that they had an equal interest in all, for they were equally ready to work for all classes who were willing to co-operate in the working out of the happiness of the Irish nation. He could only estimate the importance of the honour that they had conferred upon him by thinking what Mr. Balfour would give for the honour—what rivers of gold, and what titles would he pour on the mayor and people of Waterford. Such ceremonies made him (Mr. O'Brien) reflect upon the enormous advantage of winning the control of the municipal institutions of Ireland for the people.

The Duchess of Albany and family arrived at Ballater by Queen's Messenger train at five o'clock this morning, and drove to Birkhall.

Earl Cadogan will succeed Viscount Cranbrook as Minister in attendance on the Queen in Scotland on the 17th inst.

Three men were dreadfully burned to-day in Campbell's bottle-works, Glasgow, through a molten tank exploding. The Glasgow fire engines extinguished the flames.

On the 25th inst. Sir G. Trevelyan will preside at the annual meeting of the Scottish Permissive Bill and Temperance Association at Glasgow. On the 9th of October he will attend a Liberal conference, and take part in the evening meeting, at Hull. On the 27th of October he will attend a Liberal meeting at Morpeth.

AYRSHIRE AND THE ST. LEGER.

Immense excitement prevailed when Ayrshire and Seaton walked on the course at Doncaster this morning, and there was a tremendous rush from all quarters on the moor when his presence was discovered. After walking for a short time, Ayrshire was led by Seaton in a nice gallop the same distance he will have to cover to-morrow, and although the pace was only moderate, no horse could possibly have moved in better or more taking style, and the eye-witnesses of the spin appeared unanimously of opinion that the horse was never better in his life than at present, and the greatest satisfaction as to his condition or creditably upholding his reputation was manifested.

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

HOME RAILWAYS AND FOREIGN STOCKS FIRM.—OTHER DEPARTMENTS WEAK.—LITTLE NEW BUSINESS.

The tendency of rates in the Money Market is again in the upward direction, the occurrence of the Stock Exchange settlement helping operators in their endeavour to maintain quotations. Loans for the day are not much wanted, and can be had at 2 to 2¼ per cent., but 2½ per cent. and upwards is the charge for money over the settlement. For fortnightly advances to the Stock Exchange bankers are asking 3½ to 4 per cent., but most of the borrowings are effected at about the middle figure. The discount rate for three months' bank paper remains very firm, the general quotation now being Bank rate (3 per cent.). The open market supply of money is very short, and it is fully expected that applications will have to be made to the Bank of England for seven-day loans in order to tide over Stock Exchange pay day.

The attention of operators in Stock Exchange securities is fully occupied with the adjustment of the account, and the amount of fresh business entered into is small. The principal movement in prices is in Grand Trunk of Canada stocks and Mexican Railway issues, the latter showing a further decline, and the former having lost the greater part of yesterday's improvement. Carrying-over rates are generally somewhat higher than a fortnight ago, owing to the advance in the value of money in the meantime, and the increased amount of speculation for a rise in prices. Almost all bargains are carried over at a contango rate, there being hardly an instance of a backwardation rate. In the Home Railway market Great Eastern stock is very firm, and has advanced to 69⅜, and Chatham Ordinary continues to rise, but otherwise there is no change of interest. In the Foreign market there is a rate of contango of 3 to 4 per cent. in the case of Russian 1873 and of 3½ to 4½ per cent. in that of Hungarian Gold, showing that there is now little or no speculation for the fall open in these securities. In the American Railway department prices are nearly all lower except for Denver descriptions, which are again in strong demand. The decline in Milwaukee shares is still the chief feature. The directors of this company meet to-morrow to decide the question of a dividend, but no definite information as to what their action will be is obtainable. The Vanderbilt stocks are also lower, and other descriptions are an average of about ¼ down. Mexican Railway issues are heavy. The traffic for the week amounted to £14,900, or the same as for the corresponding week last year. Diamond shares are firm, but Copper descriptions are dull.

The Stock Market at New York yesterday opened regular, specialities making an advance ranging to 3¼. Later the persistent hammering of Grangers, and free realizations in other stocks sagged prices, and the market closed weak, at the lowest point, the decline from Saturday ranging to 1½.

The following are the prices compared with yesterday's closing:—

In Home Railways.—*Improved*: Great Northern A 1, Great Eastern ⅝, Chatham Ordinary ⅜, Brighton Deferred, Sheffield Deferred, and North Eastern ⅛. *Fallen*: Caledonian, Midland, and North British ⅛.

Among Foreign Stocks.—*Advanced*: Turkish 1871 and Defence and Uruguay Bonds ¼, Egyptian State Domain ¼, the Daira ⅛, Peruvian 1872 ¼, and the 1870 ⅛. *Declined*: French Three and Four and a Half per Cents. ¼, and Spanish Four per Cents. ¼.

American Railroads.—*Risen*: Denver Preference 1⅜, the Ordinary 1, Wabash Mortgage ¼, and Lake Shore ⅛. *Fallen*: Milwaukee shares ⅞, Louisville and Nashville ⅝, Philadelphia and Reading shares ½, New York Central ⅜, Union Pacific ⅜, Erie ⅝, Philadelphia and Reading shares ½, New York Central ⅜, Union Pacific ⅜, Erie Second Mortgage, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage, Norfolk and Western Preference, and Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary ¼, Erie shares, Northern Pacific Preference, Pennsylvania shares, and Wabash Preference ⅛.

As regards Canadian and Foreign Railways.—*Lower*: Grand Trunk Second Preference 2⅛, the Guaranteed 1¾, the First and Third Preference 1⅝, the Ordinary ⅜, Mexican Second Preference 1¾, the Ordinary 1⅜, the First Preference 1, Canada Pacific ¼, and South Austrian shares 1-16.

De Beers shares are up ⅜, Suez Canal ¼, Hudson's Bay, and Bryant and May ⅛, and Ooregum 1-16; but Imperial Ottoman Bank, Cape Copper and Rio Tinto are down 1-16.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—There is a fair business in spot at firm prices. Sales 10,000. Futures two points lower, and steady thereat.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
Consols	100⅛	⅜
New Consols 2¾	98⅛	¼xd
Reduced 3 p. c.	99⅛100	xd
LocalLoan Stock	102½	3 xd
New 2½ per. Cent	94¼	5¼xd
India 3½ per Cents	104½	5 xd
Do. 4½ p. c. Rs	71⅛	½
Egyptian Guar.	100	½xd
Met. Bd. Wks. 5½	111¼	2½xd
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip	102	3
BirminghamCrp.Stk.	110	11
Liverpool	110¼	¼xd
FOREIGN STOCKS.		
Argentine 6 p. c.	100	2
Do. Hard Dols	69½	70¼
Do. Treasury	98½	9½
Austrian Gold	91	3
Do. Silver	66	8
Brazilian 1875	102⅛	3⅛
B. Ayres 6p. c.	102	4
Do. Cedulas I.	62¼	⅛
Chilian 4½ p.c.1885	100	2
Costa Rica A	91½	2½
Do. B	90	1
Egypt. State Dom.	101¾	2¼
Do. Unified	84 15 16	5 1 16
Do. Preference	102¼	3
Do. Daira Sanies	20⅛	⅛
French 3 p.c. Rnts	82¼	3¼
Do. 4½p.c. Rnts	103¼	4¼
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	79½	80
Hung. Gold Rente	83	⅛
Italian	93¼	⅛
Mexican Converted	33½	40
Peruvian 5 p.c. 72	14⅛	15⅛
Do. 6 p.c.	20¼	½
Portuguese	64	¼
Russian 1873	93¼	⅛
Spanish 4 p. c.	74⅜	⅜
Turkish 1854	103	2
Group 1	24¼	5¼
Group 2	15⅜	⅞
Groups 3 and 4	15⅜	½
4½ p. c. 1871	85¼	7¼
5 p. c. Defence	98	½
5 p. c. Priority	83	5
Uruguay Unified	71¼	6¼
Virginia Funded	40	2
U.S. 4½ p.c.	107½	8¼
BRITISH RAILWAYS		
Caledonian	112¼	⅛
Great Eastern	69¼	⅛
Great Northern	117	13
Ditto A	105	6
Great Western	146	⅛
Hull and Barnsley	81¼	¼
Lanc. and York	128	10
Brighton(Ordinary)	140	2
Do. A	126	⅛
Chatham(Ordinary)	23⅞	4⅛
Do. Preference	101¼	2¼
North Western	163⅜	9⅜
South Western	136½	7½
Manchester & Shef.	69	71
Do. A.	27¼	8
Met. Consolidated	75	⅛
Do. Land Stock	70½	1½
Do. District	35	⅛
Midland	131½	2
North British	118¼	19
North Eastern	159	¼
North Stafford	111	13
South Eastern	131	3
Do. Deferred	103⅛	⅛
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Canada Pacific	53½	⅝
Cen. Pacific Share	37	¼
Chic. Mil. and St. P	72	¼
Denver & R. Grande	20½	¼
Do. Pref.	53¼	¾
Illinois Shares	121¼	2¼
Lake Shore	100	½
Ohio & Mississipp	25¾	¼
Louis. and Nash	61¼	¼
Mex. Cen. Bonds	67¼	8¼
Do. Nat "A"	63	⅜
Miss. Kan. & Texas	13½	14
N. Y. Cen. Share	111¼	¼
New York Ontario	17⅜	⅜
Erie Shares	29¾	30¼
Do. Sec. Mort.	101¼	¼
Norfolk & West. Pre	58¼	⅜
N.Y.P.&O. 1st M.	32¼	¼
North. Pacific Pref	64¼	¼
Pennsylvania Sh	57	¼
Phil. and Read. Sh	27¼	⅛
Union Pacific Shares	62½	3
Wabash Preferred	28	¼
Do. Gen. Mort.	44⅜	5⅛
Grand Trunk Sh.	11	⅛
Do. First Pref.	65⅝	⅜
Do. Second Pre	44	⅛
Do. Third Pref.	25⅜	⅜
Do. Guaranteed	69½	70
Mexican Ordinary	48¼	⅜
Do. First Pre	120⅜	⅞
Ob. do. 2nd Pref	81	½
Lombardo-Venetian	9⅛	⅛
Varna 3 per cent	7½	⅜
Nitrate Railway	25¾	¼
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank	13¼	11¼
City Bank	20⅛	1½
Consolidated Bank	7¼	8¼
Imperial Ottoman	111	¾
London and County	83	6
Union of London	40	1
London and West.	66	7
London Joint Stock	39½	40½
Nat. Prov. of Eng	43	4
Stand. Bnk. S. Afric	50	1
MINES		
Indian Consolidated	5 16	7 16
Mysore shares	3 1 16	3 16
Ooregums	1¾	⅛
Cape Copper	4 13-16	15 16
Namaqua	3	⅛
Mason and Barry	11 5 16	7 16
Rio Tinto	22⅛	½
Montana £1 shares	1 9 16	11 16
De Beers	31	¼
Kimberley Cent	31½	5
TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.		
Anglo-American	40½	1¼
Do. Pref.	68	9
Brazilian Submarine	13	⅛
Direct Unit. States	9¼	⅛
Eastern	12⅜	⅝
Ditto Extension	13	¼
United Telephone	13¼	⅛
Globe Teleg. Trust	6⅞	7⅛
TRAMWAYS ETC		
London Gen. Om	189	91
London Street	11	12
London Tramway	13	14
North Metropolitan	13	17
WATERWORKS.		
Chelsea Waterworks	256	61
East London	197	202
Grand Junction	124	8
Kent	269	74
Lambeth	253	63
New River, New	347	58
S'thwrk. & Vauxhal	162	7
W. Middlesex	264	9
GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.		
Gaslight & Coke A	252	6
Imp. Continental	208	11
South Metropolitan	306	16
BrushElecLt(£4pd)	3	⅛
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Allsopp	8¼	⅛
Guinness and Co.	307½	10
Hotchkiss	9⅜	⅜
Bryant and May	12¼	13
Spratt's Patent	9½	¾
P. and O. Steam	64	6
Royal Mail Steam	63	6
Nat. Discount Co.	11¾	¼
Hudson's Bay	19⅛	⅛
Suez Canal	8	⅛
E. & W. Ind. Dock	25	7
London and St. K.	42	4

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDERS.

No further arrests have been made in connection with the murders in Whitechapel, and, so far as we are at present informed, the search has been, as far as the attainment of any real evidence is concerned, absolutely futile. There is only one man in custody at Leman-street, and all those who were taken on suspicion to Commercial-street and Bethnal-green have been discharged. As regards the arrests reported yesterday the man named Pizer, who was at first said to be the notorious "Leather Apron," was not liberated in the afternoon, but is still in custody, although not charged with any specific offence. It is thought that if he is not actually implicated in the murder, or murders, he may still be able to throw some light upon the affair, and it is considered probable that he will be charged on suspicion, as without that step being taken the police will be unable to keep him in custody. When this man was apprehended Dectective Inspector Thicke took possession of five sharp long-bladed knives—which, however, are used by men in Pizer's trade (that of a boot finisher)—and also several old hats. With reference to the latter, several women who stated that they were acquainted with the prisoner, alleged he had been in the habit of wearing different hats.

Then as regards the arrest in a tavern at Gravesend of a man named Pigott. After being brought to London he was examined by several witnesses, who however, failed to identify him as the man wanted. The divisional surgeon pronounced him to be a lunatic, and he was removed to the Whitechapel Infirmary, where he is kept under close observation. It was, however, rather a singular story which this man told when the police arrested him :—

On approaching the man, who seemed in a somewhat dazed condition, the sergeant saw that one of his hands bore several recently made wounds. Being interrogated as to the cause of this, Pigott made a somewhat rambling statement to the effect that while going down Brick-lane, Whitechapel, at half-past four on Saturday morning he saw a woman fall in a fit. He stooped to pick her up, and she bit his hand. Exasperated at this he struck her, but seeing two policemen coming up he then ran away. The sergeant, deeming the explanation unsatisfactory, took Pigott to the police-station, where his clothing was carefully examined by Dr. Whitcombe, the divisional surgeon. The result of the scrutiny was an announcement that two shirts which Pigott carried in a bundle were stained with blood, and also that blood appeared to have been recently wiped off his boots. After the usual caution the prisoner made a further statement to the effect that the woman who bit him was in the street at the back of a lodging house when seized with the fit. He added that he slept at a lodging-house in Osborne-street on Thursday night, but on Friday was walking the streets of Whitechapel all night. He tramped from London to Gravesend on Saturday. He gave his age as fifty-two, and stated he was a native of Gravesend, his father having some years ago had a position there in connection with the Royal Liver Society. Subsequently Pigott told the police that he had been keeping several publichouses in London.

As the prisoner's description tallied somewhat with the description of the suspected murderer he was detained, and subsequently removed to London, but, as we have seen, when confronted with the women who had furnished descriptions to the police it was the unanimous opinion that Pigott was not "Leather Apron."

A meeting of the chief local tradesmen was held yesterday, at which an influential committee was appointed, consisting of sixteen well-known gentlemen, with Mr. J. Aarons as the secretary. The committee issued last evening a notice stating that they will give a substantial reward for the capture of the murderer or for information leading thereto. The movement has been warmly taken up by the inhabitants, and it is thought certain that a large sum will be subscribed within the next few days. Mr. Montagu, the member for Whitechapel, has offered a reward of £100 for the capture of the murderer.

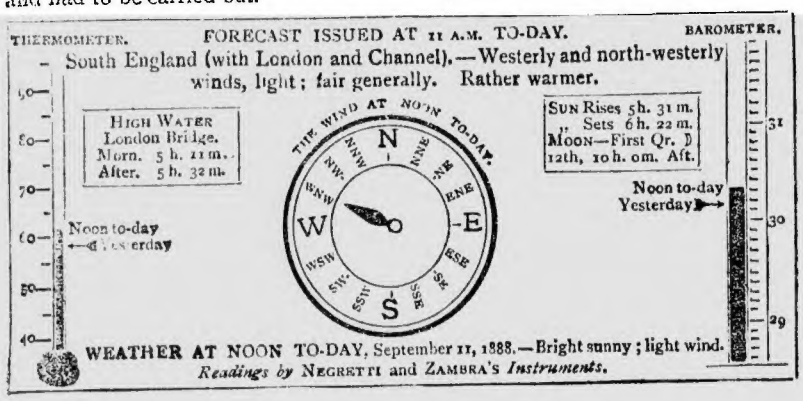
The following official notice has been circulated throughout the metropolitan police district and all police-stations throughout the country :—"Description of a man who entered a passage of the house at which the murder was committed of a prostitute at 2 A.M. on the 8th.—Age thirty-seven ; height, 5 ft. 7 in. ; rather dark beard and moustache. Dress—shirt, dark jacket, dark vest and trousers, black scarf, and black felt hat. Spoke with a foreign accent."

COMMENCEMENT OF CUB HUNTING.

The cub-hunting season is naturally a little late this year. It is obviously impossible to hunt the young and inexperienced fox until the fields are fairly clear of their crops of grain. A little outstanding corn does not make much difference to the sport, but the farmer strongly objects to having many fields of grain trampled under foot by horse and hound. We have had a late harvest this year, and cub-hunting is correspondingly belated. It is not unusual at this time of the year for a country village to be awakened at five in the morning by the blast of the huntsman's horn, at which time all turn out to join in a sport much beloved of the rustic. The cub never runs far afield, and the chase after him can be enjoyed by those on foot equally as well as by those on horseback. It is stated this morning that the cub-hunting season in Kent has opened near Sittingbourne, and that the prospects of the forthcoming hunting season are good.

A DOG FIGHT AT A POLITICAL MEETING.

While Mr. Pritchard Morgan was addressing a political meeting in a theatre at Merthyr Tydvil last night the audience were astounded to hear a loud barking of dogs in the gallery. A fight took place, and the gallery was precipitately emptied of its alarmed occupants. Some of the women fainted, and had to be carried out.


THERMOMETER.
FORECAST ISSUED AT 11 A.M. TO-DAY.
BAROMETER.
South England (with London and Channel).—Westerly and north-westerly winds, light; fair generally. Rather warmer.
HIGH WATER London Bridge. Morn. 5 h. 11 m. After. 5 h. 32 m.
THE WIND AT NOON TO-DAY.
SUN Rises 5h. 31 m. ,, Sets 6 h. 22 m. MOON—First Qr. 12th, 10 h. 0m. Aft.
Noon to-day Yesterday
Noon to-day Yesterday
WEATHER AT NOON TO-DAY, September 11, 1888.—Bright sunny ; light wind.
Readings by NEGRETTI and ZAMBRA'S Instruments.

MILITARY EXPERIMENTS WITH BALLOONS AND MELENITE.

The interesting and important experimental operations carried on at Lydd Camp, under the direction of Captain Hamilton, R.E., are now practically at an end (says a Canterbury correspondent). Melenite, the new French explosive, has formed the subject of a number of tests, the results of which are stated to have been highly satisfactory. The explosive does not supersede gunpowder as a motive power, but is used in shells, the concussion caused by the missile striking an object releasing certain liquids, and their contact with the melenite causing it to explode with disastrous effect. One great advantage is that the substance is non-explosive when ignited by fire. Ballooning has also received a great amount of attention. Almost daily ascents have been made for purposes of photography and observation. On one occasion a moving balloon was made the target of a party of gunners working a 12-pounder Armstrong gun, with the result that it was blown to pieces after rather more than a dozen attempts. The new breechloading howitzer has also been tested.

OUR NEXT LORD MAYOR.

On Saturday, September 29, being Michaelmas Day, the Livery of the City of London will, according to annual custom, assemble in Guildhall for the purpose of selecting the Lord Mayor for the civic year commencing November 9, when the present Chief Magistrate retires. The aldermen who have not yet served the office but who are eligible for election are Mr. Alderman Whitehead, Alderman Sir Henry A. Isaacs, Mr. Alderman Savory, Mr. Alderman Evans, Mr. Alderman Cowan, and Mr. Alderman Faudel Phillips. In the ordinary custom the election should fall on the senior alderman, Mr. James Whitehead, and it is understood that this course will not be departed from. Mr. Alderman Whitehead was elected alderman of Cheap Ward on the death of Mr. Alderman Breffit, and served the office of Sheriff with Mr. Faudel Phillips in 1884-5, in the mayoralty of the late Mr. Alderman Nottage. Alderman Whitehead is a Liberal in politics, an exceedingly able man as a magistrate, and a man who would undoubtedly adorn the position to which it is said he will be elected.

THE MATTHEW ARNOLD MEMORIAL.

Lord Coleridge writes to the morning papers reminding intending subscribers to the Matthew Arnold Memorial that the fund will close in November. It is then intended to hold a meeting of the subscribers, in order to dispose, as they may direct, of the sum which may have been collected. The objects aimed at by the committee were, first, to place some permanent memorial to Mr. Arnold in Westminster Abbey (the cost of this, including all expenses connected with the Abbey, not to exceed £500); next to make up, if possible, to Mrs. Arnold the loss of Mr. Arnold's pension, no portion of which has Mr. W. H. Smith thought it right to continue to his widow ; and lastly, after providing for the foregoing objects, and if the sum obtained should be sufficient, to found at Oxford an Arnold Scholarship or Lectureship, with a view to promote the study of English literature. His lordship remarks in conclusion : The refusal of Mr. Smith to recognize in any way or to any extent the claims and services of Mr. Arnold renders it more imperative than ever upon his friends to do what they can to show their sense of his genius and his worth.

THE RAGE FOR DANGEROUS AMUSEMENTS.

A new form of amusement termed "the aërial flight" has recently been inaugurated at Blackpool. The invention, which is an extensive construction, was destined by the proprietors to rival the switchback railway and toboggan slide, and was advertised as giving "the sensation of ballooning without danger." Yesterday a wire rope, which supported a car, broke, and seven persons—four men and three women—the occupants of the car, were dashed to the ground from a height of about thirty feet. They all sustained injuries more or less severe, those of a Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, of Manchester, being the most serious.

FATAL USE OF A PEA GUN.—A little boy, the son of a clergyman named Greene, yesterday discharged a pea-gun at a nurse, a young woman of sixteen, with whom he was playing in a garden. The pellet with which it was loaded struck her in the forehead and penetrated her brain. She died in a few minutes.

MILITIAMEN AND THE FRANCHISE.—At Chester yesterday a number of militiamen were, at the instance of the Conservative agent, struck off the voting lists. The Revising Barrister said it was a very great hardship, and he certainly hoped that in the next session of Parliament the law would be altered, as it was a great pity that a man should be deprived of his vote because he was serving his country.

FIRE AT SOUTHWARK.—A fire occurred on the premises of some colour merchants at Southwark last night. A quantity of varnish boiled over and caught fire. Two men who happened to be near were shockingly burned. Frank Fowle, aged twenty-four, was burned on the face and body, and the proprietor of the premises, aged forty-five, was severely burned on the face, arms, hands, and legs. Both were removed to Guy's Hospital, where Fowle died last night.

MR. HENRY IRVING AT GLASGOW.—Mr. Henry Irving opened at Glasgow last night in "Faust." At the close of the performance he made a speech, in the course of which he repeated the well-worn witticism with which theatre-goers first became acquainted so long ago. "Since he (the devil) last had the honour of being with you he has been much up and down the world. He has received a cordial welcome wherever he has been ; but I assure you he has never been received anywhere with more fervour than here."

DEATH OF A MINISTER IN HARNESS.—During the proceedings at the monthly meeting of the Manchester Presbytery yesterday, the Rev. R. T. Cunningham fell unconscious, and was carried into an adjoining room. The Presbytery at once joined in prayer for his recovery. In a few minutes, however, and without recovering consciousness, he died. He was only thirty-five years of age. He seemed to be quite well yesterday morning, and had never given any signs of heart disease, to which his death is supposed to be due.

THE PARNELL FUND IN CANADA.—A Montreal telegram states that at a meeting of Irishmen held there on Sunday a Parnell defence fund was opened, and resolutions were adopted condemning the inhuman and brutal treatment to which Irish political prisoners were subjected, especially the cruelties practised towards Mr. Dillon in Dundalk Gaol. The Provincial Premier, Mr. Mercier, sent £20 to the fund, with the warmest wishes for the success of the movement. Mr. J. J. Curran, member of the Canadian Parliament for one of the Montreal divisions, sent another £20. More than £60 has been received to start the fund.

C. BRANDAUER and CO.'s Circular Pointed Pens write as smoothly as a lead pencil, and neither scratch nor spurt, the points being rounded by a new process. Seven Prize Medals awarded. Assorted sample box 6d., post free for 7 stamps from C. *Brandauer and Co.'s Pen Works, Birmingham.*

ALARMING NEWS FROM MOROCCO.

THE EMPEROR FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE.

HIS NAKED TROOPS DYING OF STARVATION.

According to a correspondent of the *Times*, the situation in Morocco is most serious. It began in this wise. The Sultan had been residing for some months in Mequinez, one of his capitals, when the disquieting news was brought to the city that the Beni M'Guiled tribes were in revolt, led by a Mahdi, a descendant of the former Royal line before the Fileti dynasty took possession of the throne, who aspired to the Shercefian crown. The Sultan immediately sent out from Mequinez a portion of his army, under the leadership of the Basha of that city, to attack the natives, but to such a general extent had the revolt risen that the Imperial troops were beaten and the Basha himself slain. A week or two later, in the middle of May, the Sultan himself marched his troops into the Beni M'Guiled country, and fighting became an event of almost daily occurrence. The revolutionary tribes are stated to have fought with indomitable pluck, and on two occasions almost succeeded in splitting up the Sultan's army. A curious custom of the Berbers came to light during these engagements—that of the women forming a rank behind the men and painting with henna every man who turned his back to the enemy, so that he might be easily recognized as a coward.

After about two months' fighting, the Sultan, having, as he thought, successfully put down the revolt, commenced his march towards the coast preparatory to his proposed visit to Tangier. Kaid Maclean, his Instructor-General—almost his commander-in-chief—remained at Fez with a portion of the army to quell, if necessary, any further breaking out on the part of the Berbers of Beni M'Guiled. The marching of the Sultan is well known to all who have any knowledge of Morocco to be a most disastrous event for those whose country he passes through, for not only are the natives obliged to furnish him with provisions and baggage animals, but also to supply the vast host—said to number some 70,000 souls—that travels with him. The Sultan had by the beginning of this month reached the borders of the Zimouri and Beni Hassan country, when the news was brought to him that Moulai Sorour, his cousin, had been surprised and defeated by a band of Berbers, together with 200 of the cavalry. A few days later fuller intelligence was brought to him stating that not only had Prince Sorour suffered defeat, but that he and his 200 men were slain. His Majesty immediately set out upon an expedition to avenge the death of the Prince, which had taken place in the mountains of Muluya. From that moment the news became more and more disquieting; every day messengers arrived stating that fresh tribes had revolted. From the south and south-west an army of Berbers was reported marching upon the Royal camp, while to the east the Beni M'Guiled have risen and prevented Kaid Maclean, with the troops that he possesses in Fez, from joining or helping his Royal master. Meanwhile the Kaid has been enlisting every man, and in many cases boys, and by this time may have attempted the Sultan's rescue.

Food has risen to a terrible price in Fez, and from all accounts the city is in a state of siege. It was too late then for the Sultan to turn back, as in the country over which he had been passing the people were so exasperated at the taxes he had levied upon them that it needed but little persuasion to bring them to a state of revolt.

That is the last news we have from the interior. If couriers have been sent to Tangier they have been slain *en route*. The roads are impassable, on account of the general revolt, to all parts of the interior, even to the coast town of Larache. This state of things cannot last long. The Sultan's troops are dying of starvation, and many are reported to be stark naked, while day by day dozens are deserting and joining the enemy. The Sultan, in fact, at present can be said only to be ruler of the ground he is camping upon.

What will be the result of this state of affairs remains to be seen; but all the coast towns are in some danger, as should the Sultan, who exposes himself in battle like a common soldier, be killed, there is little doubt that what remains of his army would need but slight persuasion to join with the Berbers in pillage and revolt. Almost the only chance of the Sultan's army issuing safely from its present position is that Kaid Maclean, with his newly-enrolled troops, may be able to effect a junction with the Royal army. But, whether this be successfully carried out or no, there exists still this fact—that a crisis such as the country has not experienced for many years is now existing.

DEATH OF A GREAT MAORI CHIEF.

Simultaneously with the arrival of a Maori lecturer in London and the approach of a team of Maori footballers comes the news of the death of one of the most implacable foes of the English in New Zealand, the famous fighting chief, Tito Kowaru. His name first became known in 1868, when he attacked the stockade occupied by Captain Ross in Taranaki, captured it, and put the commander and twelve of his men to death. Captain M'Donnell, at the head of a hastily-gathered force, was despatched to the scene, but the whole body fell into an ambush arranged by Tito Kowaru, and was routed with the loss of five officers and thirty men killed and a great number wounded. Captain M'Donnell was superseded by the present Colonel Sir George Whitmore, who found Tito Kowaru strongly entrenched, attacked him, but was compelled to retreat, after the loss of Major Hunter and a number of his men. Tito Kowaru followed closely on his heels, desolating the country and burning and looting the farmhouses. Strongly reinforced Sir George Whitmore took the field again, engaged Tito Kowaru, and defeated him three times in succession. The dreaded chief was now a fugitive, and he remained in hiding with a price on his head until 1874, when the general quietude of the country enabled the Government to allow him to return to his old abode. He was arrested as a precautionary measure during the Parihaka troubles of 1881.

A GUILTLESS BUT UNHAPPY QUEEN.

TOUCHING PLEA BY QUEEN NATHALIE.

The following are extracts (says the *Times* correspondent at Vienna) from the statement which Queen Nathalie has prepared in response to the King's demand for a divorce. The statement, which is dated Versailles, August 8 (20), fills about three columns of small German print, and begins thus:—

Rare and wonderfully sad is the fate of this our beautiful but oft-tried land, the people of which now have their eyes fixed on the unlovely incidents which are being enacted around the scarcely erected throne.

It has pleased His Majesty the King of Servia, my august Consort, to put away from him his lawfully-wedded and devoted wife, the wife who swore to him before the altar of our Holy Church to be true to him and to love him to the grave, the wife who has given him an heir to the Servian throne. It has pleased him to separate the son from the mother whose only happiness was in her child. It has pleased him to drive forth as an exile the woman whose sad fate it has been to become the first Queen of Servia after an abeyance of the Royal Crown during five hundred years. It has also pleased him to inscribe on the first page of the new kingdom's history the events about which not only Belgrade and the Consistory Court but the whole civilized world is speaking, events which posterity, equally with the living generation, will condemn.

The Queen proceeds to say that her public and private life has been like an open book. She declares that, if all the world forsakes her now, she will trust to history for her justification, and she protests that there are no laws, ecclesiastical or civil, in Servia which can separate a King from a guiltless Queen. "My sad fate," she adds, "would bring tears from a stone; but I do not ask for pity—only for justice." She then says:—

The things charged against me in the King's two petitions never took place, and even if they had happened as stated, they would have offered no ground for a divorce. The first petition contains no serious complaint at all, and those in the second, brought forward as afterthoughts, mention nothing of which judges can take cognizance. The King, my husband, is not justified in saying that the arrangement which I proposed as regards the custody of our son was unpractical, for the proposals really emanated from him, and I was only called upon to sanction them. As to my having refused to give my son to M. Protitch at the time when I was expelled from my house at Wiesbaden, my dignity as a Queen and mother did not allow me to act otherwise than I did, and had I acted otherwise the whole world would have condemned me.

The Queen next says that she will not discuss the charges brought against her; they are all erroneous. She can produce letters showing that her acts are susceptible of a construction quite different from that which the petition places upon them; and she can call witnesses in high positions to prove that in all her doings she was animated by a desire for the King's welfare.

"I remain silent," she continues, "because I still cherish the hope that I may be reconciled with my husband. This is the dearest wish of my heart, for the fulfilment of which I pray daily to God."

Then comes this declaration:—

But should my hopes and efforts at a reconciliation be frustrated, nobody can feel surprised if I use all the means in my power to defend myself against charges touching my dignity as a Queen, wife, and mother. I can only trust, therefore, that the judges of the court will do their duty in dismissing the petition.

The remainder of the Queen's statement consists of arguments to show that the court has no jurisdiction. A number of articles of the Ecclesiastical and Civil Codes are referred to in support of this contention, and finally the Queen urges that if the court decide upon trying the case she has a right to be heard in person.

INTERESTING TO THE BROWNING SOCIETY.

Has any lover of Browning (writes Mr. Albert S. Cook, of the University of California, to the New York *Critic*) noticed the poet's apparent familiarity with the pastoral romancer, Longus? Every reader of 'Saul' will remember the beautiful lines near the beginning of that poem, descriptive of the various tunes played by David upon his harp, such as the following:—

> And I first played the tune all our sheep know, as, one after one,
> So docile they come to the pen-door till folding be done.
> * * * * * *
> Then I played the help tune of our reapers, their wine song, when hand
> Grasps at hand, eye lights eye in good friendship, and great hearts expand.

In Longus's romance of "Daphnis and Chloe" there occur two passages which may have furnished Browning with the suggestion of this series of tunes. The first is found on pp. 303-4 (I quote from Smith's translation, in the Bohn edition):—"He ran through all the variations of pastoral melody; he played the tune which the oxen obey, that which attracts the goats, that in which the sheep delight. The notes for the sheep were sweet, those for the oxen deep, those for the goats were shrill. In short, his single pipe could express the tones of every pipe which is played upon. Those present lay listening in silent delight; when Dryas rose up, and desired Philetas to strike up the Bacchanalian tune. Philetas obeyed, and Dryas began the vintage-dance, in which he represented the plucking of the grapes, the carrying of the baskets, the treading of the clusters, and the drinking of the new-made wine. . . . Upon losing sight of her, Daphnis, seizing the large pipe of Philetas, breathed into it a mournful strain, as of one who loves; then a love-sick strain, as of one who pleads; lastly a recalling strain, as of one who seeks her whom he has lost." The other is from pp. 332-4:—"Daphnis disposed the company in a semicircle; then standing under the shade of a beech-tree, he took his pipe from his scrip, and breathed into it very gently. The goats stood still, merely lifting up their heads. Next he played the pasture-tune, upon which they all put down their heads and began to graze. Now he produced some notes, soft and sweet in tone: at once his herd lay down. After this he piped in a sharp key, and they ran off to the wood, as if a wolf were in sight."

Again, may not the impulse to write this poetry have been derived from Herder's "Spirit of Hebrew Poetry"? On p. 197, Vol. II., of the translation there is a kind of challenge to poets in general:—"Take David in the presence of Saul. More than one poet has availed himself of the beauty of this situation, but no one to my knowledge has yet stolen the harp of David, and produced a poem, such even as Dryden's ode in the composition of Handel, where Timotheus plays before Alexander." If Browning did accept the challenge, it was only to refute the observation by his success.

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS

LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Sole Lessee, Mr. HENRY IRVING.)

TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 8.15,

Mr RICHARD MANSFIELD as
DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE.

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GAIETY.—"SHE," TO-NIGHT and EVERY EVENING, at 8.

GAIETY.—"SHE."—Miss SOPHIE EYRE as SHE.

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Miss MARY RORKE as USTANE.

GAIETY.—"SHE."
Mr. EDMUND MAURICE as LEO.

GAIETY.—"SHE."
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GAIETY.—"SHE."
"In earth and skie and sea
Strange thynges ther be."—"SHE."
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CHAPTER III.

OF OUR FURTHER ACQUAINTANCE WITH MAJOR-GENERAL J. B. HEATHERSTONE.

THERE was, as may well be imagined, much stir amongst our small community at the news that the Hall was to be inhabited once more, and considerable speculation as to the new tenants and their objects in choosing this particular part of the country for their residence. It speedily became apparent that, whatever their motives might be, they had definitely determined upon a lengthy stay; for relays of plumbers and of joiners came down from Wigtown, and there was hammering and repairing going on from morning to night. It was surprising how quickly the signs of the wind and weather were effaced until the great square-set house was all as spick-and-span as though it had been erected yesterday. There were abundant signs that money was no consideration to General Heatherstone, and that it was not on the score of retrenchment that he had taken up his abode among us.

"It may be that he is devoted to study," suggested my father, as we discussed the question round the breakfast table. "Perhaps he has chosen this secluded spot to finish some magnum opus upon which he is engaged. If that is the case, I should be happy to let him have the run of my library."

Esther and I laughed at the grandiloquent manner in which he spoke of the two potato-sacks full of books. "It may be as you say," said I, "but the General did not strike me during our short interview as being a man who was likely to have any very pronounced literary tastes. If I might hazard a guess, I should say that he is here upon medical advice, in the hopes that the complete quiet and the fresh air may restore his shattered nervous system. If you had seen how he glared at me, and the twitching of his fingers, you would have thought it needed some restoring."

"I do wonder whether he has a wife and a family," said my sister. "Poor souls, how lonely they will be! Why, excepting ourselves, there is not a family that they could speak to for seven miles and more."

"General Heatherstone is a very distinguished soldier," remarked my father.

"Why, papa, however came you to know anything about him?"

"Ah, my dears," said my father, smiling at us over his coffee-cup, "you were laughing at my library just now, but you see it may be very useful at times." As he spoke he took a red-covered volume from a shelf and turned over the pages. "This is an Indian Army List of three years back," he explained, "and here is the very gentleman we want—'Heatherstone, J. B, Commander of the Bath,' my dears, and 'V.C.' think of that, 'V.C.'—'formerly colonel in the Indian Infantry, 41st Bengal Foot, but now retired with the rank of major-general.' In this other column is a record of his services—'capture of Ghuznee and defence of Jellalabad, Sobraon, 1848, Indian Mutiny, and reduction of Oudh. Five times mentioned in despatches.' I think, my dears, that we have cause to be proud of our new neighbour."

"It doesn't mention there whether he is married or not, I suppose?" asked Esther.

"No," said my father, wagging his white head with a keen appreciation of his own humour. "It doesn't include that under the heading of 'daring actions'—though it very well might, my dear, it very well might."

All our doubts, however, upon this head were very soon set at rest, for on the very day that the repairing and the furnishing had been completed I had occasion to ride into Wigtown, and I met upon the way a carriage which was bearing General Heatherstone and his family to their new home. An elderly lady, worn and sickly-looking, was by his side, and opposite him sat a young fellow about my own age and a girl who appeared to be a couple of years younger. I raised my hat, and was about to pass them, when the General shouted to his coachman to pull up, and held out his hand to me. I could see now in the daylight that his face, although harsh and stern, was capable of assuming a not unkindly expression.

"How are you, Mr. Fothergill West?" he cried. "I must apologize to you if I was a little brusque the other night—you will excuse an old soldier who has spent the best part of his life in harness. All the same you must confess that you are rather dark-skinned for a Scotchman."

"We have a Spanish strain in our blood," said I, wondering at his recurrence to the topic.

"That would of course account for it," he remarked. "My dear," to his wife, "allow me to introduce Mr. Fothergill West to you. This is my son and my daughter. We have come here in search of rest, Mr. West, complete rest."

"And you could not possibly have come to a better place," said I.

"Oh, you think so," he answered; "I suppose it is very quiet indeed, and very lonely. You might walk through these country lanes at night, I dare say, and never meet a soul, eh?"

"Well, there are not many about after dark," I said.

"And you are not much troubled with vagrants or wandering beggars, eh? Not many tinkers or tramps or rascally gipsies—no vermin of that sort about?"

"I find it rather cold," said Mrs. Heatherstone, drawing her thick sealskin mantle tighter round her figure. "We are detaining Mr. West too."

"So we are, my dear, so we are. Drive on, coachman. Good day, Mr. West." The carriage rattled away towards the Hall, and I trotted thoughtfully onwards to the little county metropolis.

As I passed up the High-street Mr. McNeil ran out from his office and beckoned to me to stop. "Our new tenants have gone out," he said. "They drove over this morning."

"I met them on the way," I answered. As I looked down at the little factor I could see that his face was flushed and that he bore every appearance of having had an extra glass.

"Give me a real gentleman to do business with," he said, with a burst of laughter. "They understands me and I understands them. 'What shall I fill it up for?' says the General, taking a blank cheque out o' his pouch and laying it on the table. 'Two hundred,' says I, leaving a bit o' a margin for my own time and trouble."

"I thought that the landlord paid you for that," I remarked.

"Aye, aye, but it's well to have a bit margin. He filled it up and threw it over to me as if it had been an auld postage stamp. That's the way business should be done between honest men—though it wouldna' do if one was inclined to take an advantage. Will ye not come in, Mr. West, and have a taste of my whisky?"

"No thank you," said I, "I have business to do."

"Well, well, business is the chief thing. It's well not to drink in the morning too. For my own part, except a drop before breakfast to give me an appetite, and maybe a glass, or even twa, afterwards to promote digestion, I never touch spirits before noon. It may be that I'm over particular, but it's as well to be on the safe side. What d'ye think o' the General, Mr. West?"

"Why, I have hardly had an opportunity of judging," I answered.

Mr. McNeil tapped his forehead with his forefinger. "That's what I think of him," he said, in a confidential whisper. "He's gone, sir, in my estimation. Now what would you consider to be a proof of madness, Mr. West?"

"Why, offering a blank cheque to a Wigtown house-agent," said I.

"Ah, you're aye at your jokes. But between oorsels now, if a man asked ye how many miles it was frae a seaport, and whether ships come there from the East, and whether there were tramps on the road, and whether it was against the lease for him to build a high wall round the grounds, what would ye make of it, eh?"

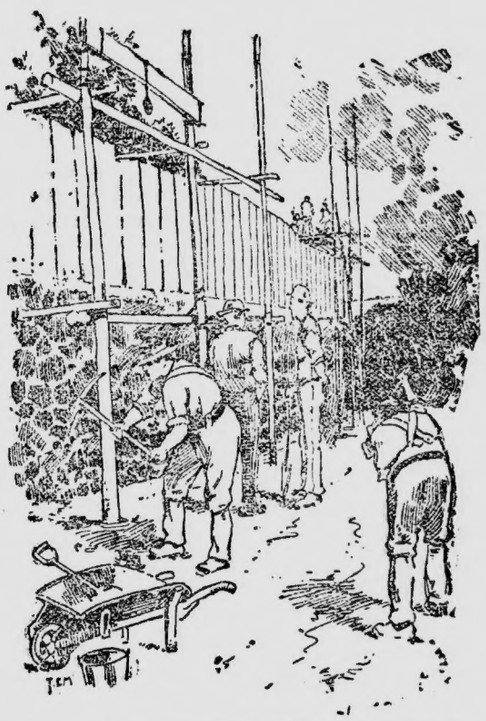
"I should certainly think him eccentric," said I.

"If every man had his due, he would find himsel' in a house with a high wall round the grounds, and that without costing him a farthing," said the agent.

"Where then?" I asked.

"Why, in the Wigtown County Lunatic Asylum," cried the little man, with a bubble of laughter, in the midst of which I rode on my way, leaving him still chuckling over his own facetiousness.

The arrival of the new family at Cloomber Hall had no perceptible effect in relieving the monotony of our secluded district, for instead of entering into such simple pleasures as the country had to offer, or interesting themselves, as we had hoped, in our attempts to improve the lot of our poor crofters and fisher folk, they seemed to shun all observation, and hardly ever to venture beyond the avenue gates. We soon found too that the factor's words as to the enclosing of the grounds were founded upon fact, for gangs of workmen were kept hard at work from early in the morning until late at night in erecting a high wooden fence round the whole estate. When this was finished, and topped with spikes, Cloomber Park became impregnable to any one but an exceptionably daring climber. It was as if the old soldier had been so imbued with military ideas that, like my Uncle Toby, he could not refrain even in times of peace from standing upon the defensive. Stranger still, he had victualled the house as if for a siege, for Begbie, the chief grocer of Wigtown, told me himself that the General had sent him an order for hundreds of dozens of every imaginable potted meat and vegetable.



GANGS OF WORKMEN WERE KEPT HARD AT WORK IN ERECTING A HIGH WOODEN FENCE ROUND THE WHOLE ESTATE.

It may be imagined that all these incidents were not allowed to pass without comment. Over the whole country-side there was nothing but gossip about the new tenants of Cloomber Hall and the reasons which had led them to come among us. The only hypothesis, however, which the bucolic mind could evolve was that which had already occurred to Mr. McNeil, the factor—namely, that the old General and his family were one and all afflicted with madness, or, as an alternative conclusion, that he had committed some heinous offence and was endeavouring to escape the consequences of his misdeeds. These were both natural suppositions under the circumstances; but neither of them appeared to me to commend itself as a true explanation of the facts.

It is true that General Heatherstone's behaviour on the occasion of our first interview was such as to suggest some suspicion of mental disease; but no man could have been more reasonable or more courteous than he had afterwards shown himself to

be. Then, again, his wife and his children led the same secluded life that he did himself; so that the reason could not be one peculiar to his own health. As to the possibility of his being a fugitive from justice, that theory was even more untenable. Wigtownshire was bleak and lonely, but it was not such an obscure corner of the world that a well-known soldier could hope to conceal himself there; nor would a man who feared publicity set every one's tongue wagging as the General had done. On the whole, I was inclined to believe that the true solution of the enigma lay in his own allusion to the love of quiet, and that they had taken shelter here with an almost morbid craving for solitude and repose. We very soon had an instance of the great lengths to which this desire for isolation would carry them.

My father had come down one morning with the weight of a great determination upon his brow. "You must put on your pink frock to-day, Esther," said he; "and you, John, you must make yourself smart, for I have determined that the three of us shall drive round this afternoon and pay our respects to Mrs. Heatherstone and the General."

"A visit to Cloomber!" cried Esther, clapping her hands.

"I am here," said my father, with dignity, "not only as the laird's agent, but also as his kinsman. In that capacity I am convinced that he would wish me to call upon these new comers and offer them any politeness which is in our power. At present they must feel lonely and friendless. What says the great Firdousi? 'The choicest ornaments to a man's house are his friends.'"

My sister and I knew by experience that when the old man began to justify his resolution by quotations from the Persian poets there was no chance of shaking it. Sure enough, that afternoon saw the phaeton at the door, with my father perched upon the seat, with his second-best coat on, and a pair of new driving-gloves. "Jump in, my dears," he cried, cracking his whip briskly: "we shall show the General that he has no cause to be ashamed of his neighbours."

Alas, pride always goes before a fall! Our well-fed ponies and shining harness were not destined that day to impress the tenants of Cloomber with a sense of our importance. We had reached the avenue gate, and I was about to get out and open it, when our attention was arrested by a very large wooden placard, which was attached to one of the trees in such a manner that no one could possibly pass without seeing it. On the white surface of this board was printed in big black letters the following hospitable inscription:—

GENERAL AND MRS. HEATHERSTONE

HAVE NO WISH

TO INCREASE

THE CIRCLE OF THEIR ACQUAINTANCE.

We all sat gazing at this announcement for some moments in silent astonishment. Then Esther and I, tickled by the absurdity of the thing, burst out laughing; but my father pulled the ponies' heads round and drove homewards with compressed lips and the cloud of much wrath upon his brow. I have never seen the good man so thoroughly moved, and I am convinced that his anger did not arise from any petty feeling of injured vanity upon his own part, but from the thought that a slight had been offered to the Laird of Branksome, whose dignity he represented.

CHAPTER IV.

OF A YOUNG MAN WITH A GREY HEAD.

IF I had any personal soreness on account of this family snub, it was a very passing emotion, and one which was soon effaced from my mind. It chanced that on the very next day after the episode I had occasion to pass that way, and stopped to have another look at the obnoxious placard. I was standing staring up at it and wondering what could have induced our neighbour to take such an outrageous step when I became suddenly aware of a sweet girlish face which peeped out at me from between the bars of the gate, and of a white hand which eagerly beckoned me to approach. As I advanced to her I saw that it was the same young lady whom I had seen in the carriage.

"Mr. West," she said, in a quick whisper, glancing from side to side as she spoke in a nervous, hasty manner, "I wish to apologize to you for the indignity to which you and your family were subjected yesterday. My brother was in the avenue, and saw it all, but he is powerless to interfere. I assure you, Mr. West, that if that hateful thing," pointing up at the placard, "has given you any annoyance it has given my brother and myself far more."

"Why, Miss Heatherstone," said I, putting the matter off with a laugh, "Britain is a free country, and if a man chooses to warn off visitors from his premises there is no reason why he should not."

"It is nothing less than brutal," she broke out, with a petulant stamp of her foot. "To think that your sister, too, should have such an unprovoked insult offered to her! I am ready to sink with shame at the very thought."

"Pray do not give yourself one moment's uneasiness upon the subject," said I, earnestly, for I was grieved at her evident distress. "I am sure that your father has some reason unknown to us for taking this step."

"God knows he has!" she answered, with ineffable sadness in her voice. "And yet I think it would be more manly to face a danger than to fly from it. However, he knows best, and it is impossible for us to judge. But who is this?" she exclaimed, anxiously peering up the dark avenue. "Oh, it is my brother Mordaunt. Mordaunt," she said, as the young man approached us, "I have been apologizing to Mr. West for what happened yesterday in your name as well as my own."

"I am very, very glad to have the opportunity of doing it in person" said he courteously. "I only wish that I could see your sister and your father as well as yourself, to tell them how sorry I am. I think you had better run up to the house, little one, for it's getting near tiffin time. No—don't you go, Mr. West. I want to have a word with you.'

(To be continued.)

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